Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Leaders Arrive in Casablanca for Arab Summit

LD2205192389 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Arab leaders have been arriving in Casablanca for the Arab summit. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, Sultan Qabus of Oman, President Yasir 'Arafat, and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn have arrived at Mohamed V International Airport. King Hussan II was at the airport to welcome them. Earlier, the amir of Bahrain, the Mauritanian minister of mines and industry, and the Kuwaiti heir apparent arrived in Morocco. [Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic at 1300 GMT on 22 May reports that Djibouti President Hassan Gouled arrived last night.]

King Fahd Arrives

LD2205192589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1836 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 22 May (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz by the grace of God arrived in Casablanca this evening to attend the emergency Arab summit conference, which will begin in Casablanca tomorrow, Tuesday.

He was welcomed at Mohamed V International Airport by His Majesty King Hassan II, the Moroccan monarch.

King Fahd Makes Statement

LD2205222789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1852 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpts] Casablanca, 22 May (SPA)—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's commitment to the course of clearing the Arab atmosphere and narrowing the gap in the viewpoints of some Arab states. [passage omitted]

Here is the text of a statement by the custodian of the two holy mosques to MAP, the Moroccan News Agency:

As I arrive in my second homeland, the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco, I am pleased to express to my brother His Majesty King Hassan II and to the Moroccan people my most sincere greetings and the greetings of the people and Government of Saudi Arabia. I appreciate and am proud of the tender sentiments and warm welcome accorded to me and my delegation. I wish the Moroccan people under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II continuing progress and prosperity.

I am fully confident, God willing, in the ability of my brother leaders of Arab states who are meeting today [as recieved] with the most lofty aims, dearest principles, and noblest intentions—to complete the steps that we have begun along the road of joint Arab action, strengthen the unity of our Arab nation, and consolidate its ranks so that it can confront the challenges that encompass it and the conspiracies hatched against it.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with its fraternal Arab brothers, has taken responsibility for clearing the atmosphere and bringing the viewpoints closer of fraternal Arab states. Thanks be to God, this brought about a positive stage in mutually understanding intricate affairs and their dimensions. Saudi Arabia reaffirms its commitment to this course and to continuing the work until the atmosphere of our Arab relations becomes still further clear and more ready and prepared to realise all the aspirations and hopes of the peoples of our nation toward our fateful issues.

First is the Palestinian issue, whose jihad has culminated in the rise of an independent Palestinian state recognized by most countries of the world—a Palestinian state in dire need of a unified Arab position supporting those heroic mujahidin and their gallant intifadah [uprising]. Perhaps we should prepare for them all the potentials that consolidate their struggle so that they achieve victory and return to their homeland, establish their independent state on their soil, and regain their inalienable rights under the leadership of the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of this great issue.

There is also Lebanon, which is dear to every Arab. As a result of the continuous bloodshed today, it is in dire need of a genuine Arab position that dresses its wounds, eases its pains, and leads it ashore to safety as a proud, secure independent Lebanon with stable life and potential.

All Lebanese today pin their hopes—after trust in God—on this blessed summit that we hope will realize the aims and objectives, God willing.

It gives me pleasure at this meeting to salute Arab Egypt, which regained its position among its Arab brothers as an effective member who will continue to play its historic role in the service of the Arab nation and its defense. Egypt has never fallen short of playing this role.

At the same time, I salute His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the hopes and aspirations of the people of Egypt. He is very zealous toward Arab solidarity and always strives to make more efforts in this direction.

In conclusion, I wish success on the emergency Arab summit, to be held here under the leadership of His Majesty King Hassan II. Along with my brother leaders of Arab states, I look forward to everything that strengthens our Arab positions; unifies our ranks; strengthens the atmosphere of relaxation in inter-Arab relations; and works for everything that realizes more stability, development, security, and prosperity for our states and peoples.

YAR President Arrives

JN2205203689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, arrived at Mohamed V International Airport in Casablanca at 2000 Sanaa time, heading our country's delegation to the extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled to open in Casablanca tomorrow. [passage omitted]

During a stopover in the Greek capital, Athens, President Salih received His Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense, and general inspector of fraternal Saudi Arabia. They discussed issues of cooperation and coordination between the two friendly countries. [passage omitted]

UAE President Arrives

JN2205194789 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpt] Casablanca, 22 May (WAKH)—Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, today arrived in Casablanca to take part in the emergency Arab summit conference, scheduled to convene tomorrow, Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives

NC2205150089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpts] President Mohamed Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Casablanca at 1630 Cairo time today. They will attend the meetings of the extraordinary Arab summit, which are to be held at the royal palace in Casablanca. His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco; the crown prince; senior Moroccan officials and armed forces commanders; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi; and the Egyptian ambassador to Morocco received President Mubarak at Mohamed V International Airport in Casablanca. [passage omitted]

The extraordinary Arab summit will hold a session tomorrow afternoon, which will be attended by the Arab kings and presidents. President Mubarak will deliver an important speech to the summit in which he will expound and analyze the implications of the current situation in the Arab region and the policies designed to bolster efforts that serve the Palestinian cause and help resolve the Lebanese crisis.

ACC Council Leaders Meet in Casablanca

NC2305051289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2143 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 22 may (MENA)—The four leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] states—namely, President Husni Mubarak, King Husayn of Jordan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemeni Arab Republic [YAR]—held a summit meeting in Casablanca tonight on the periphery of the Arab summit, which will open tomorrow.

MENA has learned that the four leaders discussed several important issues within the framework of the continuous consultations and coordination among them.

MENA also has learned that the meeting dealt with fixing the date of the convening of the ACC summit in Cairo. The press agency also has learned that the contacts and consultations will continue among the four leaders after the conclusion of the Arab summit in Casablanca in order to activate the work of the grouping and to bolster economic cooperation among the four states.

MENA further has learned that during their meeting, the leaders of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and the YAR discussed the importance of coordination among the three Arab groupings—the ACC, the Arab Gulf States Cooperation Council, and the Union of Arab Maghreb—in order to bolster the Arab economy and trade in a full and integrated manner.

INA Details Meeting

JN2305081889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0540 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 23 May (INA)—The leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] states—President Saddam Husayn, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, and Yemen Arab Republic President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih—held a meeting at Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's residence at dawn today.

During the meeting, they coordinated the ACC states' positions on issues regarding the extraordinary Arab summit's agenda and means of developing the ACC within the framework of Arab efforts to tackle major Arab issues, foremost of which are the Palestine question, the situation in fraternal Lebanon, and the Iraq-Iran negotiations in a manner that will serve the higher Arab interests.

Discuss Coordinating Positions

NC2305120589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] President Husni Mubarak resumed his meetings with Arab kings and presidents in Casablanca today. A joint meeting was held in President Mubarak's place of

residence today attended by the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council countries of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and the Yemen Arab Republic. During the meeting, the leaders discussed coordinating the four countries' positions.

Mubarak Confers With 5 Arab Leaders

NC2205193989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 22 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held intensive contacts and meetings soon after arriving at his place of residence in Casablanca.

President Mubarak visited Jordan's King Husayn at the latter's place of residence. Safwat al-Sharif, information minister and member of the delegation accompanying the president, said that both leaders, Mubarak and Husayn, exchanged views on Arab issues to be discussed by the Arab summit during their meeting that lasted around 1 hour.

President Mubarak and King Husayn then visited Iraqi President Saddam Husayn at his place of residence. They held a joint meeting during which they discussed the latest developments of issues before the Arab summit and exchanged views on the date for the Arab Cooperation Council summit. The date will be determined after the Yemen Arab Republic President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih arrives in Casablanca.

These meetings were attended on the Egyptian side by the information minister and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the president's office for political affairs. The meetings were also attended by members of the official Jordanian, Egyptian, and Iraqi delegations.

This evening, President Mubarak visited Amir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani to discuss current Arab issues.

Tonight, President Mubarak received at his residence Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al-Khalifah. They discussed the most important issues to be discussed at the Arab summit.

Holds Talks With King Husayn

JN2205202189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Casablanca—His Majesty King Husayn has started holding intensive consultations with a number of Arab leaders, kings, and presidents participating in the emergency Arab summit.

His Majesty King Husayn received at his place of residence in Casablanca this evening His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation.

The PETRA correspondent has learned that the two great leaders exchanged, during this meeting, their views on the developments in the Arab arena and means of promoting and supporting Arab solidarity, in addition to discussing the issues on the conference's agenda, which begins its work tomorrow, Tuesday [23 May].

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN2205183289 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The president leader, Saddam Husayn, received at his place of residence in Casablanca this afternoon His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan, the delegation accompanying his majesty, and Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying his excellency.

During the meeting, they reviewed the subjects on the emergency Arab summit's agenda.

The meeting was attended by Revolution Command Council members, Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information.

Saddam Husayn Meets Kuwaiti Heir Apparent

JN2305081689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0544 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpt] Casablanca, 22 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister in the fraternal state of Kuwait, and the delegation accompanying him here at dawn today.

During the meeting, they discussed topics listed on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca and the firm fraternal relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

PLO, Syria Split on Peace Strategy

NC2205133689 Paris AFP in English 1325 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, May 22 (AFP)—Arab foreign ministers were Monday trying to reconcile Syrian and PLO statements on Middle East peace strategy ahead of an Arab summit starting Tuesday, diplomatic sources reported.

Both the Palestine Liberation Organization, which represents "the State of Palestine" here, and Syria have put forward texts of a statement that were presented Sunday to a six-member ministerial committee.

The committee, grouping foreign ministers from Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Jordan and the PLO were asked to synthesize the two documents.

The Syrian draft, according to a copy obtained by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, appears intended to deny the PLO a role in forging a Middle East solution.

While both texts call for an international peace conference under United Nations auspices, the Palestinian version stipulates that the PLO must participate "as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people."

The Syrian version also says the PLO must take part but omits any reference to its status as the exclusive representative of the Palestinians.

The PLO urges a settlement on the basis of a "peace initiative" launched in December 1988, when Chairman Yasir 'Arafat explicitly recognized Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism.

By contrast, the Syrian document does not exclude the military option, as it calls for "the mobilization of political, military, economic and cultural energies to confront the Israeli enemy" as well as "strategic parity" with Israel.

While the PLO seeks an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territory seized in the 1907 [as received] Middle East war, Syria demands "the unconditional withdrawal of all occupied Arab and Palestinian territory."

In the absence of any reference to 1907, analysts said, the Syrian text could be interpreted as referring to all of historical Palestine.

Syria, Egypt Differ on PLO Stand

JN2205185189 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 May 89

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from Casablanca]

[Text] King Hassan II has embarked on urgent contacts in Casablanca with the kings and presidents on a proposal to invite Salim al-Huss and General Michel 'Awn to explain their positions to the Arab summit in an effort to reconcile opinions on the problem of Lebanese representation at the summit. The Casablanca airport was the scene of these contacts, which coincided with the arrival of Arab leaders. The same subject will be pursued by King Hassan at the dinner banquet he will hold for the leaders tonight. This proposal was presented by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz on behalf of the four Arab Cooperation Council states. An Egyptian source stressed to our radio that Egypt supports this proposal as a solution to the absence of Lebanon whose seat was vacant during yesterday's ministerial meeting.

President Mubarak was among the first presidents who arrived in Casablanca today. He immediately began consultations with King Hassan and some Arab presidents.

Now that Egypt's return to the Arab League and all its organizations has been settled, discussion centered on its role began. Egypt has actually exercised its role today by submitting a working paper reconciling the Palestinian and Syrian papers on the Palestine question. It was adopted by the drafting committee as a basis for discussions.

The session witnessed a lengthy, serious debate between the Egyptian and Syrian foreign ministers, during which Syria stuck to its basic reservations vis-a-vis its decision not to recognize the Palestinian state, the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions, and the PLO's peace program. Egypt, for its part, stuck to its support for the PLO's position, which calls on the summit to adopt the PNC resolutions following the international support extended to the PLO.

Following the meetings, Faruq al-Shar' said any settlement should concentrate on all the UN resolutions. He added he did not support all the discussions held on the joint paper. It was agreed to transfer the matter to the summit with Syrian reservations.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's arrival has not been confirmed although President al-Asad's arrival has become certain.

Al-Shar': Agreement on Some Points

JN2205190189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The drafting committee charged with studying the Arab-Israeli conflict concluded its meetings in Casablanca this afternoon by finalizing a joint working paper. The commitee also referred certain points about the Arab-Israeli conflict to the emergency Arab summit.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told journalists that agreement has been reached on some points on the Arab-Israeli conflict while other points will be left for the summit.

Asked about the resolutions that call for recognizing Israel, the minister said that for Syria any settlement must be based on all of the UN resolutions. He pointed out that the Syrian paper highlights Israel's total withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 and assurance of the Palestinian inalienable rights. The UN-sponsored international conference is the right forum for promoting just and comprehensive peace based on relevant UN resolutions, al-Shar' said.

King Hassan II To Chair Summit Meetings

NC2205172989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1433 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 22 May (MENA)—The opening session of the extraordinary Arab summit will be held tomorrow, Tuesday, at 1100 Morocco time, which corresponds to 1400 Cairo time [times as received].

Moroccan King Hassan II will chair the summit meetings as host of the summit. He will deliver a speech at the beginning of the session. This will be followed by a speech by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

The Arab kings and presidents are due to begin arriving in Casablanca later today. All are expected to arrive by this evening.

Hassan To Open Meeting

LD2305080689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0650 GMT 23 may 89

[Excerpts] Casablanca, 23 May (SPA)—The emergency Arab summit conference is scheduled to begin its meetings here later today amid indications that a unified Arab attitude will be adopted toward the items on its agenda, and particularly those of the Palestine question and the Lebanese problem. [passage omitted]

King Hassan II will open the emergency conference later this afternoon, Casablanca time.

He will be followed by Algerian President Chadhli Benjadid in his capacity as chairman of the last Arab summit conference. The conference will then continue its work in camera. [passage omitted]

Mubarak To Deliver Speech

NC2305050189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will deliver an important speech before the emergency Arab summit conference, scheduled to open in Casablanca in Morocco today. In his speech, Mubarak will discuss the current Arab situation and the efforts being made to solve the Palestinian issue, and the Lebanese crisis. The Arab summit meeting is scheduled to open at 1800 Cairo time. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministers Ask Al-Huss, 'Awn to Summit

NC2205123589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The France Inter Radio has reported that the Arab foreign ministers decided in their meeting yesterday to invite Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Michel 'Awn to participate in the extraordinary Arab summit conference due to be held tomorrow. However, this report has not yet been confirmed.

REUTER had cited Moroccan King Hassan II as saying that he considers the presence of Dr al-Huss and 'Awn in Casablanca an absolute necessity, because their presence will provide an opportunity for consultations in a bid to reach an agreement. REUTER also has cited Arab diplomats in Casablanca as saying that Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and 'Awn might receive invitations to travel to Morocco, not to attend the summit conference but to hold talks with the Arab leaders on the periphery of the conference. The diplomats said that the Moroccan king is trying to sound out the views of the Arab leaders on this matter.

Presence at Summit Pending

NC2305131789 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss received a telephone call from Lebanon's ambassador to Morocco Sami Qurunful at noon today. During the conversation, the ambassador briefed the prime minister on the atmosphere of the Arab summit in Casablanca and informed him that there is nothing new with regard to Lebanon's representation at the summit.

Foreign Ministers Finalize Agenda for Summit

Al-Qasim on Meeting

JN2205134589 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers have finalized the agenda of the emergency Arab summit, which gets under way in Casablanca tomorrow. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said there are four items on the agenda. These are the Palestine question; the Arab-Israeli conflict; the state of Iraqi-Iranian relations; and Lebanon. In a statement to a JORDAN NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Casablanca, Al-Qasim said that the ministers reviewed the Palestinian question and the Iraq-Iran issue over two working sessions and decided to form a drafting committee made up of Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Morocco, and Tunisia to formulate papers on the Palestinian question and the Iraq-Iran issue. It is to be recalled that the Syrian and Palestinian delegations have each presented a paper on these two issues. The deputy prime minister added that the drafting committee met yesterday and finalized the suggestions to be put to their majesties and exellencies the kings and presidents. The Iraqi delegation, the deputy prime minister said, put forward a working paper on the dispute with Iran to the foreign ministers who adopted it ahead of its presentation to the summit. He said the foreign ministers decided to put off consideration of the Lebanese crisis and to submit to the emergency summit a progress report on work of the six-member committee on Lebanon.

It is to be recalled that the committee met twice yesterday to prepare a report for the summit.

Speaking at the foreign ministers' meeting, Al-Qasim welcomed the attendance of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister which he said signals a return of our elder sister to her natural place at the heart of the Arab nation and among

her sisters. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that it would not have been possible to work out certain Arab problems without Egypt's uninterrupted involvement under President Mubarak.

He said Jordan's agenda at the summit conference features the Palestine question, the overwhelming popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied land and the mounting Israeli repressive measures to quell it, and Israel's transparent maneuvers to counter the courageous and positive moves of the PLO leadership.

Al-Qasim stressed the need to forcefully articulate support for sisterly Iraq in its peace drive. Iran must also be made to understand the need for a peaceful settlement in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 598 and to move from the prevailing cease-fire situation to permanent and comprehensive peace between the two countries.

He urged that moves be initiated toward a resolution of the Lebanese crisis out of an absolute conviction that it must be resolved and its negative repercussions stemmed. Arab and international efforts must be intensified if this sisterly country is to be salvaged and rejoin the Arab ranks, Al-Qasim said.

'Abd al-Majid on Coordination

NC2205202089 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1740 GMT 22 May 89

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid by Cairo Radio correspondent Nadia Abu al-Majd in Casablanca, carried within the "Talking Newspaper" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Abu al-Majd] We have reported the Arab pride in Egypt's return to the Arab summit and the Arab League under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak. This pride is also connected with Egypt's international moves in support of the Palestinian cause. Will there be Arab coordination in future to make collective efforts to support the Palestinian peace offensive?

['Abd al-Majid] Certainly we Egyptians are reaping the fruits of the policy laid down by President Mubarak since he assumed the presidency. We are now seeing how greatly this policy is appreciated. President Mubarak is constantly occupied with Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian issue. Indeed, this is proof of the realistic outlook that currently characterizes Arab politics. We can also say that the sober and reasonable positions that the PLO has expressed prove the political awareness, perception, and maturity that has demonstrated to the world the foresight of the president's policy. In addition, there has been a responsiveness on the part of the Arab world. These are matters that must be completed and bolstered in order to bear fruit.

I do not view the future with optimism, but rather with cautious optimism, because there are still difficulties. Nevertheless, this stage is characterized by the new spirit that pervades Arab thought. This spirit does not hark back to the past; it desires to profit from the lessons of the past so that the mistakes that were committed will not be repeated. Let us look forward with optimism to the future. Perhaps the meetings at foreign minister level and then at summit level will prove this new outlook.

[Abu al-Majd] With regard to peace in the Arab Gulf and considering that one country—Iraq—that is concerned with the Gulf conflict is a member of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], is there any coordination to promote the peace process in the Gulf with the aim of establishing lasting security in that region?

['Abd al-Majid] Of course there is full coordination between us, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic. We are holding meetings with the foreign ministers of the ACC states here in Casablanca. I have also met with a number of other Arab foreign ministers. Of course we are concerned with supporting the Iraqi position in urging Iran to show flexibility and implement the UN Security council resolution so that peace may come to this region, which is so vital to the Arab world. [passage omitted]

[Abu al-Majd] There have been contacts at the summit level between the ACC states and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries. The biggest proof of cooperation between the two councils was what happened in Cairo last week. To what extent can cooperation be established between the ACC countries and the states of the Arab Maghreb Union?

['Abd al-Majid] Contacts are continuing between the ACC countries and those of the Arab Maghreb Union. Our presence here in Casablanca is an opportunity to establish contacts and attempt to lay down rules and bases for them. Certainly there is wide scope for this. What we do collectively supports what we do on a bilateral level. I am optimistic with regard to this relationship. We believe that the establishment of the two councils and the establishment of relations between them and the GCC states are all matters that are in line with the principles of the Arab League Charter. Such ties also bolster the bonds between all the Arab countries for the good of the Arab people.

[Abu al-Majd] Thank you, sir.

['Abd al-Majid] Thank you.

Al-Shar' Receives Husayn Message

JN2305070389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Jordanian Royal Court Chief Dhuqan al-Hindawi in Casablanca last night. Al-Hindawi conveyed to the minister a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from King Husayn of Jordan.

Details of Plan To Solve Lebanon Crisis Revealed

JN2205161789 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 21 May 89 p 5

[Text] Beirut—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that a plan to resolve the current Lebanese dilemma is being prepared now in order to be presented to the emergency Arab summit in Casablanca. It also learned that this plan enjoys almost full Arab and international approval in light of the recent contacts made by more than one Arab party.

The plan for solution is based on six main points:

—A comprehensive cease-fire and the deployment of Arab observers along the contact lines no later than 2 July.

—Terminating the issue of ports and lifting the sieges according to the resolutions adopted by the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Tunis. This step should be preceded by the deployment of observers and should be done by giving guarantees by all concerned parties to ban the import of arms, the interception of vessels, and the abolishment of the Naval Operations Room. Any breach will be investigated by the observers team.

—A period of 3 months, beginning from the deployment of Arab observers and the comprehensive entrenchment of the cease-fire, should be fixed during which the six-member Arab committee should continue its consultations with the concerned parties in order to achieve comprehensive national reconciliation. During this period, a new president should be agreed upon. In his presidential speech, the president will take it upon himself to achieve reforms according to a timetable, whose period should not exceed 2 years.

—A security area should be declared under the supervision of the Arab observers force in which deputies from both parts [of Beirut] can be given the opportunity to convene a session of the Chamber of Deputies in order to elect a new president. This session should be attended by Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and a representative of the UN secretary general.

—A statement should be issued by all sides to guarantee the adherence to the plan of solution and to deal positively with the six-member Arab committee while it continues its moves.

—The UN Security Council will be urged to take steps to implement its Resolution No 425, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied border strip on the basis that this withdrawal constitutes the key to the Lebanese authority's expansion of its control over all Lebanese territories.

The plan notes the possibility of renewing the work of the Arab observers team for 3 more months if any difficulties, which may delay the implementation of the plan, emerge.

A political source in Beirut told AL-ITTIHAD that Washington and Moscow strongly support this plan, which also enjoys the approval of the Vatican. The French president also considered it a good basis to end the Lebanese crisis. The plan also received Arab approval, which will be demonstrated by full approval of it during the Casablanca summit.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Expresses 'Satisfaction' With Baker Speech

JN2305114289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department, has expressed the PLO's satisfaction with the tone of James Baker's speech. At the same time, he remarked that Baker in fact reiterated ideas previously voiced by Washington. 'Abd Rabbuh recalled that similar remarks were made by former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last September. [passage omitted]

PNC Official Cited

NC2305112989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Following the statements made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker yesterday in which he called on Israel to abandon its expansionist dream of annexing the occupied territories in the West Bank and Gaza in preparation for achieving a Greater Israel, Muhammad Subayh, the number two man in the PLO office in Cairo and secretary of the Palestine National Council, today welcomed the statements which Baker made before a Jewish lobby group in the United States. Subayh said that these statements clearly result from the meeting of the new Arab summit in Casablanca.

Subayh added: We believe that a unified Arab stance will have an impact and bring new significance in the Arab and international arenas. Washington's position is a positive one and a step forward toward Palestinian rights.

Baker has urged [Israel] to start a serious dialogue with the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, to give up annexation, and to stop building settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Radio Notes 'Intifadah' Call To Kill Israelis

JN2205170589 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] In a statement today, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising called for a general strike in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip tomorrow to protest the continuing U.S. support for the Zionist entity and to reject enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initiative on holding elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip under the occupation.

In the statement, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising called on the emergency Arab summit to insist on convening the international conference to establish a just peace in the region. It reaffirmed the intifadah [uprising] people's willingness to continue down the path of martyrdom until they achieve their goals of expelling the occupation forces and establishing the independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO.

The Unified Leadership called for killing a Zionist soldier or settler for every Palestinian who is martyred. It also called for intensifying confrontations with the occupation forces.

The statement contained a schedule for the intifadah activities until 10 June, when the intifadah goes into its 19th month. Among these were: declaring a general strike on 4 June to commemorate the invasion of Lebanon, and striking on the 5th of the same month on the occasion of the 1967 setback.

Official Announces PLO UNESCO Membership Bid
JN1905180489 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] 'Umar Masalihah, Palestine's observer at UNESCO, has announced that the UNESCO Executive Council decided at the beginning of its session the day before yesterday [17 May] to place Palestine's demand for joining UNESCO on its agenda. The issue can be discussed on 19 June and a recommendation can be submitted to UNESCO's general conference during its session in November.

In a statement, Masalihah said that Palestine's demand for membership in UNESCO has been placed on the agenda on the recommendation of UNESCO Director General Frederico Mayor and of the Arab and nonaligned countries. During its opening session 17 May, the UNESCO Executive Council listed on its agenda the topic of accepting Palestine as a member of UNESCO. Masalihah pointed out that the UNESCO director general made his recommendation in accordance with an official demand from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.

Brother Masalihah said that before officially submitting the Palestinian demand last night, he met with all influential UNESCO member states, including the Soviet Union, the PRC, and West European countries. He said that the Soviet Union and the PRC showed support for accepting Palestine as a member of UNESCO. However, West European countries will abstain from voting on the Palestinian request.

Palestine's UNESCO observer expressed hope that the Executive Council will make a positive recommendation accepting Palestine's membeship, adding that membership is a means to an end, not an end in itself. Through membership, we want Palestinian scholars and scientists to participate in UNESCO activities and to benefit from UNESCO's areas of expertise and convey their experiences to the Palestinian people. This will enable UNESCO to tackle directly the Palestinian people's problems within its area of international expertise.

Asked about U.S. opposition to Palestinian UNESCO membership, 'Umar Masalihah said: The U.S. threat to UNESCO is absolutely baseless, as the United States is not a member of UNESCO. The United States withdrew from the international organization in 1985. He added: We hope that the U.S. threat will not have the effect it had in the WHO last week when it opposed Palestine's membership in the organization. He added: If the United States returns to UNESCO and opposes Palestine's membership, the move will create a new situation with which we will deal effectively.

PLO Applies To Join Geneva Human Rights Treaty
JN2005174589 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The PLO has applied to the Swiss Government to join the Geneva treaty on human rights. Nabil Ramlawi, PLO's Geneva representative, submitted the application to the Swiss Foreign Ministry on behalf of the State of Palestine.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in its capacity as the party receiving such applications, Switzerland will look to see if the PLO can be recognized as a signatory in the name of the Palestinian state. Berne Radio said last night that there will be no objection to the membership bid if it receives endorsement by two member nations. Other member countries are, however, entitled to enter their reservations, the radio added.

PLO Reportedly Halts Financial Aid Via Amman
JN2305093389 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The Palestinian organization has decided to suspend movement of financial aid to the West Bank and Gaza Strip residents through Amman until new arrangement are made to control the distribution of aid. This was reported by the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH, according to Palestinian sources.

The paper says that the new arrangements include entrusting a limited number of officials with distributing aid to make sure that it goes to those who deserve it.

AL-SABAH adds that the organization's leadership is worried about the effect that the improper distribution of aid may have on the size of aid that will be endorsed by the extraordinary Arab summit is Casablanca.

Official Denies Report

JN2305074289 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim has denied the claims made last night by Zionist television to the effect that the PLO has decided to stop sending funds to support the Palestinian people in the occupied territories through the Occupied Territories Department, which is headquartered in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

In a news statement, Milhim, who is the head of this department, said that this is a Zionist fabrication. It is part of the campaign of distortion, by which the Zionist authorities seek to create confusion in the ranks of the Palestinian people, who are waging their brave intifadah [uprising] and making great sacrifices for the sake of freedom and independence.

He pointed out that Zionist television has attributed this report to the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH to make people believe that it came from the Palestinian leadership in Tunis. He added that the newspaper had nothing to say on this issue because there is no truth whatsoever in the report.

PLO Official on U.S. Policy, Summit, Uprising

JN2205051189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 May 89 p 31

[Text] Tunis—AL-ANBA'—from Fathi al-Barqawi and agencies—PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, who is also head of the Information Department, says the PLO will call for Egypt's participation in the seven-member Arab support committee on the intifadah [uprising]. He said Egypt's return to the Arab fold will foster more effective Arab solidarity and should bolster Arab strength.

In a statement to AL-ANBA', he said that a meeting was held in Tunis last Thursday between the U.S. and Palestinian ambassadors to Tunisia, and he called on the British Government to develop its position on the PLO. He also praised France's position.

On the coming Arab summit, 'Abd Rabbuh said the Palestinian paper focuses on the Arab peace plan that was drawn up at the Fes summit and was developed later at the intifadah summit in Algiers. The Palestinian paper also envisions wholehearted political support for the Palestinian peace initiative in various areas, particularly on the international front to promote the speedy convening of the international conference according to the ideas and terms set by previous Arab summits. The Palestinian official called the coming summit exceptional.

Beyond that, the Palestinian paper envisages the creation of a five-member committee made up of the Frontline States of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine. The paper proposes that the committee be charged with political coordination among these countries as the parties directly concerned with the international conference and a regional settlement.

'Abd Rabbuh goes on to say that the Palestinian paper will also demand that Arab countries honor their commitments to the intifadah. He points out that the Algiers summit resolutions decreed that $128 million be immediately made available and that $43 million dollars be paid each month. To date, a majority of Arab states have failed to abide by the resolution, he noted. This last point is top priority for the Palestinians at the summit, said 'Abd Rabbuh and cited such reasons as the tightening economic grip applied by Israel on the Palestinian people in the occupied territory. Long-term steadfastness necessarily calls for sustained and constant material support, added the PLO official.

'Abd Rabbuh goes on to list other points on the Palestinian paper to be put to the Arab leaders at the summit. It wants the Arab group to urge the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly to impose deterrent sanctions against Israel. The paper notes that the state of Palestine can invoke rules of international law and the United Nations itself in seeking mandatory sanctions against Israel for its violation of UN and Security Council resolutions and the fourth Geneva convention governing occupied territory. The PLO official recalls in this respect that there is the precedent of the United Nations passing such resolutions against South Africa.

The PLO will ask the Arab states to adopt a clearer position on the U.S. Middle East policy, which still provides a cover for the Israeli occupation and its practices in the occupied Palestinian territories. He recalled the United States' obstruction of the UN Security Council resolutions denouncing Israel.

Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh revealed that a meeting was held in Tunis the day before yesterday—Thursday [18 May]—between a Palestinian delegation and the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, Robert Pelletreau, who had previously led the U.S. delegation to two official meetings with a Palestinian delegation.

The Palestinian official pointed out that during this meeting, a Palestinian memorandum was addressed to the U.S. Administration. He said that the memorandum includes the PLO's views on Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, especially since this plan was officially announced by the Israeli Government.

The PLO Executive Committee member adds that the Palestinian side thinks that any discussion of transitional or short-term steps must take place within the framework of a practical and integrated agreement of the political solution and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

'Abd Rabbuh reiterated the PLO's position toward Shamir's plan—a position that insists on proceeding from an agreement on a just and comprehensive solution within the framework of an international conference. Moreover, the Palestinian people's exercise of their full rights cannot take place without international supervision in place of Israeli occupation forces because democracy, freedom, and self-determination are incompatible with the presence of occupation forces. This point has been ackowledged by democracies and has become one of the basic rules of international relations.

Commenting on what has been described as a difference of opinion between the United States and Israel on the plan to hold elections in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Palestinian official said this is not important to the Palestinian side. What is important is the starting point. He added that details cannot be tackled before agreement is reached on major principles. The elections are details, while the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination are the major topics and most important principles. When agreement is reached on these principles, then one can discuss procedural matters and details in negotiations within the framework of the international conference.

Asked whether the Soviet position on this issue has changed, 'Abd Rabbuh said that the Kremlin's position is still identical to the Palestinian position. He explained that USSR Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had confirmed to the PLO that the elections should take place within the framework of a comprehensive solution.

The PLO Executive Committee member described French President Francois Mitterrand's statement on his recent meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat as an memorable French step. He also explained that these statements show that any international force alone cannot act unilaterally to impose solutions in the Middle East. He said that France has a role to play in the Middle East and has interests in the region. He pointed out that Francois Mitterrand's invitation to Yasir 'Arafat confirms this. He said he believes that the French move will make the other European countries reassess their policies and adopt stances and initiatives in line with the requirements of a just peace in the Middle East and the dictates of international relations, which is now leaning toward detente and the settlement of regional conflicts.

When asked whether the French stance will effectively affect the policies of other countries, particularly the United Kingdom, 'Abd Rabbuh said that the Thatcher government cannot ignore the new realities, including 'Arafat's visit to France, anor continue to have its policy remain a copy of Washington's. This is not in the United Kingdom's interest. The sooner the British Government undertakes constructive initiatives and positive steps toward the PLO, the better this will serve its role in the Middle east.

The Palestinian official described the recent statements by British officials as attractive. He said he hoped that these words would be translated into deeds.

Algeria

Syrian President Arrives on 'Working Visit'

JN2205210089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Oran—President Hafiz al-Asad this evening arrived in Oran on a working visit to Algeria. He was received at the airport by the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, a number of senior Algerian officials, and representatives of the Algerian National Liberation Front and government in Oran. After the two national anthems were played, the two presidents reviewed the guard of honor and President al-Asad shook hands with senior officials.

At the Oran airport's VIP lounge, President al-Asad spoke to the Algerian media, expressing pleasure for visiting Algeria and thanking President Chadli Bendjedid for providing an opportunity for the visit to continue the talks that began in Libya on the general Arab situation and issues of concern to the entire Arab nation. The president expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Tripoli talks with the Presidents Bendjedid, Ben Ali, and Al-Qadhdhafi. He said that Syria is eager to exchange views with brother President Bendjedid and on constant consultations on issues of concern to the Arabs in all their countries.

The president praised the struggle of the fraternal Algerian people and said that the assets of the homeland of 1.5 million martyrs are assets for all Arabs, and we are proud of this people. President al-Asad expressed the belief that the talks that will be held in Algeria and those that were held in Tripoli, which dealt with Arab issues and topics on the table of the extraordinary Arab summit, are in the interest of the Arab nation and its pan-Arab issues. In his name and on behalf of the Syrian Arab people, the president saluted our people in Algeria and wished them progress and prosperity.

Bendjedid Welcomes Libya's Al-Qadhdhafi in Oran

LD2205220789 Tripoli JANA in English 2000 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Oran, Al-Ma' [May] 22 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution has arrived this afternoon in Oran airport in sisterly Algeria.

An official welcome was accorded to him. President Chadli Bendjedid was in the forefront of those welcoming him.

Also receiving him were the director of the Diwan in the presidential office, the secretary general in the Presidium, a number of the Army officers and officials in Oran Province and the ambassador of Algeria in Great al-Jamahiriyah.

When disembarking from the plane, he was presented with a bunch of flowers. He, together with President Bendjedid, stood on the platform of honour while the two national anthems were sung. He then inspected the guards of honour stood there to salute him. [sentence as received] He shook hands with those there welcoming him.

Earlier this afternoon, he left Tripoli and was seen off by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Col. Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

Egypt

Mubarak To Address Casablanca Summit 23 May

NC2205183989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Casablanca, 22 May (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will deliver a speech tomorrow at the special Arab summit which will convene in Casablanca, Morocco.

MENA has learned that President Mubarak's speech will comprehensively view the future of the Arab nation in light of existing Arab cooperation which is based on common interests.

MENA has also learned that the president will deal with the Arab nation's present situation in light of the big groupings in the world, such as the EC, U.S.-Canadian grouping, and various Asian groupings, and in light of the U.S.-Soviet detente and the recent Sino-Chinese detente.

President Mubarak will also deal with the importance of establishing an effective common Arab market and its effect on the Arab nation's future.

As part of this speech, President Mubarak will compare the establishment of the common Arab market in 1964 and its failure to develop with the EC, which has developed and which will achieve its unity in 1992. In this respect, the president will explain where they stand and where we stand.

President Muabrak's speech will also concentrate on several points, including the need to resolve Arab differences, establish understanding and dialogue among Arab family members, Arab-European dialogue, and Arab-African cooperation. The speech will also concentrate on the importance of pooling Arab resources and the need to invest them in order to realize effective Arab cooperation and solidarity, and the adoption of quick steps to confront the challenges of this age because the Arab nation possesses tremendous resources and it has the money, expertise, and manpower which constitute the basis for its progress.

'Abd al-Majid Interviewed on Foreign Policy

JN2105122689 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 19 May 89 pp 14-16

[Interview with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, by Salwa Abu Sa'dah in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Abu Sa'dah] What about Egypt's attendance of the Rabat [as published] Arab summit? And what about the latest contacts currently underway in this regard?

['Abd al-Majid] Things as they stand right now are heading toward the securing of an Arab consensus on Egypt's participation as of now in the meetings due to begin in Casablanca on 23 May. There is no doubt that the noble spirit demonstrated by His Majesty King Hassan II in his capacity as host of the meetings and also by all Arab presidents and kings is a cause for jubilation and satisfaction, as this spirit is viewed as appreciation by the entire Arab leadership of President Mubarak's wise policy, which has sought since the president assumed his executive powers to bolster Arab solidarity and to attempt to surmount the difficulties and overcome the differences.

[Abu Sa'dah] But what about the latest contacts on Egypt's insistence on attending the summit from the start, just like any other state?

['Abd al-Majid] I believe that the situation nowadays has reached the phase of securing a clear consensus on the issue. The effects of this will appear in the fact that an invitation will be extended to his excellency the president to attend the summit at the same time similar invitations will be extended to other Arab heads of state.

[Abu Sa'dah] What is your comment on the latest statements made by President Hafiz al-Asad on Egypt's participation in the emergency summit?

['Abd al-Majid] We welcome this statement and view it as a sound phenomenon. Egypt has always had in mind that Syria is close to Egypt, regardless of the existence of some differences of opinion. However, differences should not negatively affect the friendliness of relations. The Syrian move will pave the way for the materialization of further cohesion, solidarity, and rapprochement among all Arab peoples.

[Abu Sa'dah] It has been circulated that the emergency Morocco summit will be held to prepare for the convening of the Riyadh summit through resolving the issue of Egypt's return to the Arab League at first. Is this true?

['Abd al-Majid] I heard such talk. However, the Riyadh summit issue is still standing, as it is an ordinary summit.

[Abu Sa'dah] What about the agenda of the emergency Rabat [as published] summit?

['Abd al-Majid] The agenda has not been discussed, as it is an issue that is usually left to the heads of state. It is hard for me to make predictions on the issues that will be discussed.

[Abu Sa'dah] Is there a chance for a meeting between President Mubarak and President al-Asad, as has been circulated, to settle their differences?

['Abd al-Majid] This might of course happen if President al-Asad were to be present in Casablanca. Such a meeting took place between the two presidents in Kuwait. The two presidents maintain a strong relationship and friendship.

[Abu Sa'dah] How do you view the effect of the current detente between the two superpowers on regional problems, including the Palestine question?

['Abd al-Majid] There is no doubt that the world is witnessing a new phase in the history of international relations. Since the end of World War II, mankind has experienced a difficult phase of tension and arms races between East and West. Yesterday's allies have become today's enemies. However, we are currently witnessing a phase of detente after all sides came to the conclusion that the calamities of war would affect both sides. This also began to emerge after all parties realized that they have no choice but to work to alleviate the tension and narrow the political gaps between the two sides.

The effects of this have been made manifest on regional problems that were created to serve as hotbeds of tension and contact lines separating the interests of the two camps. As a matter of course, the detente between the two superpowers will have a direct effect on the conflicts plaguing various parts of the world.

If I could be more frank, I would like to point out that the responsibility lies on our shoulders. I mean the parties concerned with any of the regional causes. We must bless the rapprochement between Moscow and Washington and be enthusiastic about it. However, we should realize that it will not become the magic wand with which all problems will be solved.

Everyone admits that the Palestinian cause is witnessing positive and expeditious developments at this stage. The principal reason for this is thanks to the Palestinian people's intifadah [uprising]. The rapprochement between Moscow and Washington could have taken place very slowly were it not for the intifadah, which has activated the stands on the region in this manner and has changed the equation in the area. This has forced a speedy action by all, including the major powers. We can benefit from the improvement of relations between Moscow and Washington to push ahead the peace process in the region.

[Abu Sa'dah] How does Egypt assess the results of the Moscow meeting between Baker and Shevardnadze?

['Abd al-Majid] One of the most important results of this meeting was that they agreed on the urgent need to initiate the peace process, in spite of the disagreement between them on how to approach the current circumstances and the cause. However, there is at least agreement between the two superpowers that the Palestinian people's cause should be quickly resolved and that the Palestinian people's rights should be given priority in this settlement.

We can now say that the way is paved for the initiation of negotiations to attain a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian cause, as the Soviet-U.S. understanding will help to make the parties concerned carry out direct negotiations. This understanding will also play an instrumental role in the process of the provision of guarantees to the various parties. The current international atmosphere is propitious for the issue of the Palestinian people getting their full national and legitimate rights.

[Abu Sa'dah] Some expected that something will take place to invigorate the state of affairs following the statements made by Bush and the U.S. Administration in the wake of the visits by President Mubarak and King Husayn to the United States. In practice, there was nothing tangible except for the readoption of the question of elections, which was originally a U.S. idea. How do you assess this U.S. stand?

['Abd al-Majid] There is no doubt that the U.S. stand has developed in a positive manner. During President Mubarak's U.S. visit, President Bush delivered a speech in which he stated four points: Israel's security, termination of the occupation and the exchange of land for peace, the Palestinian people's political rights, and the timing and preparation for the international conference.

These four points constitute the framework of the current U.S. policy. There is no disagreement on these points. Talks were also held between the U.S. and Soviet sides during Baker's visit to Moscow. A high-level U.S. delegation also visited the region. I met with this delegation, and its members briefed me on the latest developments. The Soviet stand was also explained. I met with the Soviet ambassador, who explained the Soviet stand from the Soviet viewpoint.

We believe that matters are seriously being tackled, and the Middle East cause has been placed at the top of the list of priorities of the two superpowers. This is something new with respect to Soviet-U.S. relations, which used to focus on issues of disarmament. We have been told that the Middle East issue has been discussed in detail by the U.S. and Soviet delegations. They will resume their contacts next month.

Egypt agrees with these trends and is interested in making positive contributions to boost the peace process. We appreciate the PLO's role and Yasir 'Arafat's role in, and wisdom and good judgment on, the developments which began after November 1988. 'Arafat's recent visit to Paris—and the volume of support and backing he obtained from a UN Security Council permanent member state—constitutes one of the most prominent recent moves.

Undoubtedly, with its weight, France represents an important party in boosting the peace process, especially since France will chair the EEC in July so that it will compliment the role of Spain. We still remember the visit by the prime ministers of France, Spain, and Greece to Cairo. All these things make us feel that the issue of peace is moving and is not rigid, although there are standing difficulties. No one can imagine that the solution to this issue will be easy. But, so long as there is a desire to achieve a solution, we will endeavor for a solution that pleases all sides.

[Abu Sa'dah] In your talk about the U.S. delegation, you said that it is a high-level one, while there are some who believe that the level of the delegation, which is currently visiting the region, shows the U.S. lack of interest. What is your comment?

['Abd al-Majid] The U.S. delegation is a high-level one because Dennis Ross is a senior official of the U.S. Department of State and the White House. The delegation also attended Baker's meetings in Moscow. If the delegation was not a high-level one, it would not have attended the Moscow meetings and would not have visited Cairo and the region.

[Abu Sa'dah] A few minutes ago, you held a meeting with Dennis Ross, head of the U.S. delegation. What were the most important points discussed?

['Abd al-Majid] We discussed a large number of subjects, including the elections, and I do not want to go into any details. He informed us of the U.S. viewpoint on the issues of Lebanon, Afghanistan, and disarmament; and the situation in Central America.

[Abu Sa'dah] We have read the full text of Shamir's peace initiative on elections, and we want to know if there is anything new in Shamir's initiative, especially since Egypt had previously rejected the Israeli concept of autonomy. Do you believe that Shamir came out with anything new?

['Abd al-Majid] The position on elections is that, in principle, it is an accepted idea. But, all conditions of elections must be known. Here, the extent of the intifadah's influence on Israeli society and its executive leadership is apparent. It brought about such a need for new proposals which take the Palestinian people into consideration. It is also the first demand in all the proposed Israeli plans, which call for the need to halt it first. This is categorical proof of the influence of the intifadah.

Regarding elections, as a democratic principle, no one can reject them. But, who can envisage the possibility of holding free democratic elections under military occupation, which practices the most severe measures of daily oppression against the Palestinian people. Also, is the objective simply to hold these elections? What will come after them and where are they going to lead us? This means that there must be a clearly-defined plan, whose result is known in advance. If elections are part of a comprehensive plan which is accepted to Palestinians, then we welcome them. But, if they were a mere idea to maneuver and gain time, then it is rejected and is doomed to failure.

Here, I like to recall what George Shultz, former U.S. secretary of state, said during his visit to Cairo in April 1988. He used the word "interlocked" [preceding word in English] to express the relationship between the transitional and final phases for solving the Palestine question which means there is an interlock between the two phases.

Then, what is required now from Israel is a clearly-defined plan, which will answer all queries—including the U.S. queries—on international supervision, elections, the status of East Jerusalem residents, and the final form of a solution.

[Abu Sa'dah] But the text of Shamir's initiative shows that Israel's famous no's—namely, no to the PLO, no to the Palestinian state, no to land for peace barter, and no to international supervision—still exist. Israel's settlement policy will also continue. How, then, can the PLO or the West Bank and Gaza residents accept the initiative?

['Abd al-Majid] The Palestinian side is the party entitled to express its position on the elections, and we support this position. The Palestinian side demanded guarantees and put conditions so that the true aim of the elections may be achieved. If the election plan is aimed at stalling for time then it is worthless, but if, on the other hand, it is serious and part of an integrated plan leading to a final and comprehensive solution that gives the Palestinian people their rights, we will look into it.

[Abu Sa'dah] Have you found differences between the U.S. position as assessed by your talks with the U.S. delegation and the Israeli position as embodied in Shamir's initiative?

['Abd al-Majid] This is something for the U.S. side to explain. The United States should clarify points of differences with the Israeli position. The U.S. stands are known, and will become even clearer in the forthcoming stage.

[Abu Sa'dah] Some believe that there is nothing—on the regional or international levels—to force the United States or Israel to accept the idea of the international conference. What do you think?

['Abd al-Majid] I told you that the idea of the international conference was brought up by President Bush during his speech in front of President Mubarak. This idea is acceptable to the U.S. side.

[Abu Sa'dah] Had Egypt been familiar with the latest proposal that Shevardnadze posed to the U.S. side during his talks with Baker in Moscow on the holding of a quadripartite meeting between the United States, the Soviet Union, the Palestinians, and Israel? And what is Egypt's position on this proposal?

['Abd al-Majid] We did have previous knowledge of this proposal, but it is up to the concerned parties to have their say. We think the proposal is acceptable and useful.

[Abu Sa'dah] Some believe the United States wants to curb any political role by the EC, especially by France, in the Middle East so that it can stand alone in the field.

['Abd al-Majid] I do not think the United States is moving alone in the field. There is coordination and consultation. The Baker-Shevardnadze meetings indicate that the United States acknowledges the Soviet role. After his talks in Moscow, Baker met with the EC members in Brussels. He is moving within the relations between the United States and the EC.

[Abu Sa'dah] Most Arab leaders said the PLO has made well-thought-of and considerate moves since the Algiers meeting, and that it is now wagering on its dialogue with the United States and on domestic Israeli forces. But what if the U.S. and Israeli positions remain unchanged? What will be the Arab stand toward the Palestine question? This is a Palestinian question also.

['Abd al-Majid] Let us await the Arab extraordinary summit, which will determine the Arab position at the highest level. It is hoped that the Arab leaders will adopt a unified Arab action.

[Abu Sa'dah] After Egypt's return to the Arab League, there remains the Lebanese tragedy, which, in light of the latest shelling between the two parts of Beirut, overshadowed the intifadah [uprising] and reduced world attention to it. Do you expect an internationalization of the Lebanese crisis, or will the Arab efforts, represented by the six-man committee, be able to contain this crisis?

['Abd al-Majid] We supported the six-man committee under my brother and friend Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti foreign minister. We hope the committee will continue its efforts and succeed. The solution should be in the hands of the Arabs, so that the unity, stability, and safety of Lebanon can be achieved.

[Abu Sa'dah] What steps do you think should be taken before a political solution to the Lebanese crisis can begin?

['Abd al-Majid] What is taking place now is a political solution to the crisis and the Lebanese are primarily concerned in this. The brothers agree to this, which reflects the importance of the role being played by the six-man committee.

[Abu Sa'dah] Does the statement made following the recent brief meeting between Saddam and Mubarak signal a more explicit and ... e Egyptian role in the Lebanese question?

['Abd al-Majid] Egypt has never failed to play its role despite its absence from the Arab League meetings. The Arab issues, whether those pertaining to Lebanon or others, have been the Egyptian leadership's main preoccupation.

[Abu Sa'dah] Could the statement be considered Egyptian support for Iraq's stand toward the Lebanese crisis?

['Abd al-Majid] We believe that the current move is consistent with the Arab League's efforts. The six-man committee is currently exerting efforts and we must all contribute to the success of these efforts.

[Abu Sa'dah] What is your assessment of the statements made on Lebanon by Baker and Shevardnadze?

['Abd al-Majid] The two superpowers believe in the need to expedite a settlement of the Lebanese crisis and an end to the Lebanese people's tragedy. We welcome and support this.

[Abu Sa'dah] You are one of the architects of the idea of the diplomacy of development. What is your assessment of this trend in the present Egyptian-Soviet rapprochement and what is the extent of bilateral cooperation?

['Abd al-Majid] I visited the Soviet Union in May last year. I believe that our relations with the Soviet Union are based on friendship, mutual respect, and common interest. There is no doubt that we welcome cooperation with the Soviet Union, especially in the sphere of industry and energy.

[Abu Sa'dah] Has a date been fixed for President Mubarak's visits to China and the Soviet Union?

['Abd al-Majid] The dates of these visits have not been fixed yet.

[Abu Sa'dah] Have Egypt and Sudan overcome the crisis which overshadowed their relations for some time?

['Abd al-Majid] We believe there is now a better understanding. There could be no crises in relations, but differences in viewpoints about certain topics. However, our bonds with Sudan are eternal and fraternal.

[Abu Sa'dah] What is Egypt's policy toward the problem of water scarcity which specialists expect will top the list of political problems in the next 20 years?

['Abd al-Majid] Our policy is based on cooperation with all the Nile Basin states, thus proceeding from the fact that it is in the interest of us all to coordinate between the states at the head of the river and those at its mouth. International agreements call for this and Egypt respects rights. However, all states should have obligations to honor. There are well-known international rules known as the Helsinki rules regarding international rivers. This spirit and this cooperation are in the interest of all the Nile Basin states.

Talks With PLO Talks on Shamir Plan Reported

JN2205150289 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 21 May 89 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abd al-Sattar]

[Excerpts] Egyptian-Palestinian consultations are currently being held to discuss the PLO's stand on the recent Soviet proposals. These consultations deal with holding a quadripartite meeting with the PLO, Israel, the Soviet Union, and the United States to solve the Palestine question.

An Egyptian diplomatic source asserted that Cairo will not declare its official stand on Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's proposals, or Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's proposals to hold elections in the occupied territories to pave the way for Palestinian autonomy, before the PLO's approval. [passage omitted]

President Husni Mubarak has asserted that there is principled reservation on Shamir's proposals, which Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel, received last week.

AL-WAFD has learned that Egypt sets the condition that elections in the occupied territories must be held under international supervision without any Israeli pressure in order to assure the fairness of elections.

Company Wins Bid To Produce F-16 Aircraft Parts

NC2305102589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2248 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The Arab Industrialization Organization has beaten all companies competing to win a bid to produce spare parts for U.S. F-16 aircraft in the first agreement of its kind between Egypt and the United States concluded on a purely commercial basis.

In tomorrow's issue, the newspaper AL-AKHBAR says that as a result of winning this bid, the Arab industrialization organization will export spare parts for this plane to the United States and other states.

General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chairman of the organization, will sign the agreement in Cairo on 29 May along with a representative from the General Dynamics Corporation, which produces the aircraft. Egyptian arms production will thus enter a new stage, confirming to the world the extent of progress made in this field.

Parliamentary Immunity Lifted for 2 Deputies

NC2305040889 Cairo MENA in English 2120 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Cairo, May 22 (MENA)—The Legislative Committee of the People's Assembly, Parliament, agreed tonight to lift the parliamentary immunity of Mustafa Shardi, a deputy of the opposition Al-Wafd Party, who is doubling as chief editor of AL-WAFD, the party's organ.

The move was made upon a request of Dr. Yahya al-Jamal, a lawyer acting on behalf of Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal, a veteran journalist, regarding publication by AL-WAFD of four articles by Ahmad Abu al-Fath, another veteran journalist, in response to material run by Haykal. Haykal considered as libel Abu al-Fath's material. The move came also upon a request by Mrs. 'Ismat 'Abd al-Fattah pertaining to publication by AL-WAFD of a feature which she considered as libel.

The committee also agreed to lift the immunity of Muhammad Abu Gharib, a deputy of the ruling National Democratic Party, for questioning over charges of seizing public funds. However, the committee turned down a request to lift the immunity of Ibrahim Shukri, opposition Labour Party chairman, who is doubling as opposition leader.

Court Session on Revolution Organization Delayed

JN2005123289 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 18 May 89 p 4

[Excerpt] The emergency supreme state security court in Cairo has decided to postpone looking into the case of the Egypt's Revolution Organization until 30 May. This is to make it possible for the defense counsel to interrogate the first witness for the prosecution. The court also asked the prosecution to resummon the foreign prosecution witnesses. They are three Americans and two Israelis. The prosecution was also entrusted with investigating the sixth defandant's complaint about prison maltreatment.

The court yesterday listened to four witnesses, includiung the doctor who received the three injured Israeli men and the killed Israeli woman at the Arab Contractors Hospital. The court, prosecution, and defense counsel dispensed with the testimony of two prosecution witnesses currently abroad and were satisfied with these two witnesses' statements during investigations. The court asked the defense counsel to submit the names of witnesses for the defense that he wants to summon. [passage omitted]

'Large-Scale' Campaign Against Drugs Continues

JN2205201689 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 21 May 89 p 11

[By Husayn Ghanim]

[Excerpt] Large-scale campaigns on drug pushers' dens in 14 governorates which continued for 1 week have resulted in the arrest of 98 of the biggest drug dealers and their aides. Large amounts of heroin, hashish, maxi forte, and valium pills were also found. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks on Arab Summit

LD2205231189 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2002 GMT 22 May 89

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the Basic People's Congresses masses in Tripoli on 22 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God. Brothers, members of the People's Congresses, those who have the authority and the decision in their hands. I want to talk briefly on a political subject that constitutes the most important issue of the hour—the so-called emergency Arab summit, which will be held in Casablanca, Morocco, tomorrow as scheduled.

Had this conference been an ordinary conference, matters would have been normal; the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison—which is the link between the people of the Great Jamahiriyah and abroad—would have attended. Had there been an emergency conference for an emergency reason, as the case was at the Algiers summit for bolstering the intifadah [uprising] then there would not have been a need—in the case of there being an ordinary or emergency summit in this case—for referring the matter to the Libyan people or for the Libyan people to be consulted on whether Libya would attend an emergency summit being held to bolster the intifadah.

It is not appropriate for the Libyan people to be asked such a question. It is a forgone conclusion that the Libyan people will attend an emergency Arab conference for bolstering the intifadah, such as the one held in Algiers. As for the conference to be held tomorrow, it is a suspect conference that will generate 1000 questions. Until now the majority of Arab officials do not know who called for this conference. Most likely, the call came from abroad, via some Arab heads of state who listen to what comes from abroad and behave according to the suggestions from their allies— the foreign powers.

I recently visited Casablanca and asked King Hassan II to postpone or cancel this conference, or to justify its convening. I asked what the emergency issue was. He said: By God, they asked me to host this conference and said that this conference would discuss the questions of

Palestine and Lebanon. I told him that the question of Palestine is not an emergency issue—it has been going on since 1948, and that the question of Lebanon dates back to the time of 'Ali ibn Abu Talib [prophet Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law; the fourth and last Muslim Caliph, 600-661 A.D.] as he left the Ghassanites to their Christian religion [the Ghassanites were Arab Yemeni tribes who ruled in Syria; they migrated from the Yemen at the end of the 3d century and settled first in the Hijaz and then went to Syria where they became Jacobite Christians and fought with the Byzantines against the Muslims after the beginning of the Islamic conquest].

Since then, there has been a conflict between the Christians and the Muslims in Lebanon. This is not an emergency issue. King Hassan II said: I have been involved in this conference; they asked me to play host for the conference. I said: Who asked you? In general, he evaded the issue and did not want to answer the question and did not want to specify the party which asked him.

I thought that it was Saudi Arabia, but the latter sent us a delegate saying: We were surprised by the call for this conference. I have contacted a number of Arab presidents and amirs who said: We were surprised by the call for this conference. Therefore, the conference bears a big question mark, and we might well have the surprise that it was the Israelis or whoever that prompted the convening of this conference, for instance. It would then be a scandal one day for all the Arab presidents, these kings, these highnesses, these excellencies and majesties who would go to Casablanca at an invitation which one day may appear to have been sent or prompted by the Israelis.

That it was suggested by the United States or the West, there is no doubt about that, because they have their instruments in the region. They always coordinate and act together.

When I saw that this conference was suspect and I was not convinced that there was an urgent need for it, and that, furthermore, most of the Arab presidents I contacted were not convinced that there was an urgent problem requiring an emergency summit, I deemed that I personally would not take part in this conference, first because I am not a president, then, because the conference is not a revolutionary one, or a conference for a cause of struggle where I would have the honor to be present.

Generally speaking, I told Hassan II: You are the one who violated the Marrakech treaty on the Arab Maghreb Union [UMA]. You did not consult with your colleagues in the UMA telling them: I have received a call to play host for an emergency Arab summit, and what is your opinion about this. You have sent us an invitation, just as you did others.

This is the second time King Hassan has entered into a treaty with us and then violated it with an action knowing that we would not agree to it. For example, he violated the Oujda treaty by his invitation to the prime minister of the enemy; then now the Marrakech treaty which he violated by accepting this suspect conference without consulting with Mauritania, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya.

All the members of the UMA have been greatly displeased, and they strongly protest this behavior on the part of Morocco. Someone will be brought to account, and there will be a trial in this respect, as has been agreed by the brother members of the UMA concerning King Hassan II.

I have tried to postpone such a summit conference so we can discuss and understand what the urgent problem is. However, there were preparations and a persistence on the convening of this summit conference, a matter which has made me afraid of this summit's outcome. When they knew that I was upset and did not want to attend—I told them Libya is free, and it has its committees, regardless of whoever wants to attend or not—Brother Chadli Bendjedid came here himself; brother Hafiz al-Asad also came here. Yesterday brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali joined us at 0315 hours. Meetings continued between us about this matter from revolutionary and pan-Arab aspects until dawn. I did not sleep all night; I only went to sleep after dawn prayers. We were awake all night. Our meetings continued all night. Our meetings continued this morning until noon. At this very moment Arab officials were arriving at Casablanca; a number of them had already arrived and therefore it was impossible to postpone the summit conference.

The brothers decided we should attend the summit conference first, to hear what the problem is. Then we will be free to take whatever position we think fit. I told them alright, you can attend to deputize for us at this summit. They said no; we came here from three fraternal countries, we came from Algeria, Tunisia, and Syria, and therefore you will shame us in front of the world if you do not come with us. I told them yesterday to give me a chance to call upon the Libyans to have a holiday today in order for them to convene their Basic People's Congresses in emergency sessions; the General People's Congress will convene in the afternoon so as to gather by cables the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses on whether I have the right to attend this summit or not.

As I told you, this conference has a special nature; it is not a revolutionary conference like the call to consolidate the Intifidah, which I attended straight away without resorting to consultation [from the people's congresses]. Any one of us could have attended if it had been like the one held in Algiers. Or else like the ordinary summit conference which is called for by the Arab League every year; it can be attended by anyone; its

agenda is a very ordinary one. However, this summit is a suspect one. Therefore I should consult beforehand whether we should attend this summit conference.

The other point is that Egypt will be attending this conference on equal footing with the rest of the Arab states because all the Arab states—except Syria and Libya—had restored their relations with the Egyptian regime. I tell you: Do you allow me to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and shake hands with the Egyptian president? This is because he is one of the participants of the conference and the participants will dine or have lunch together and hold closed sessions, or have coffee or a drink in the lobbies of the conference. Should I once again wear white gloves and not shake hands with them? This is not the problem; the problem is that there is an Arab president who recognizes the Israeli enemy.

Our meetings went on until 5 o'clock at dawn [today] and I was unable to receive President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali until a late hour. This did not enable us to talk to you yesterday. Today there is no chance to discuss the matter with you, as the conference begins tomorrow. Today heads of state began to arrive in Casablanca. For the sake of President Chadli Bendjedid personally, and for the sake of fraternal Algeria, for the sake of the 1 and ½ million martyrs, and for the sake of President Hafiz al-Asad personally, and for the sake of Syria—the bastion of steadfastness, and for the sake of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and 7 November, and for the sake of fraternal Tunisian people, and after they have come to my house and my tent, I am compelled to accept their invitation to go with them to the conference although I feel as if I am walking on thorns and feel bitter while I proceed to this suspect conference.

But in addition to their request that I should go with them to this conference, they reaffirmed they will all be as one at the conference—as a force of steadfastness and resistance consisting of Syria—the side, which is concerned about the issue as part of its land is occupied and it is concerned about Lebanon more than any other Arab country and the situation in Lebanon is related to Syria's national and pan-Arab situation—I mean the security situation—and because Syria is involved in the Palestinian issue because it has a common border with the Palestinian people as the rejectionist revolutionary detachments of the Palestinian people are in Syria—the detachments who are not loyal to Yasir 'Arafat at all; in fact they are against him; the detachments on whom what Yasir 'Arafat decides does not apply.

They affirmed to me that these powers, that is, Algeria through its weight in the Arab Maghreb, Libya, and Tunisia in the middle, and Syria which is a side that is concerned in the question of Lebanon and Palestine—form a force of steadfastness and confrontation. We will not permit the passing of resolutions which are dictated by Washington, London, Paris, or Tel Aviv.

We are free to boycott the conference at any moment we see that it has proceeded toward betrayal, surrender, and negligence. Also, the return of Egypt for the first time to an Arab summit we must demand from it what it is going to give to the Arab nation and the issue of the Arab nation in its confrontation to Zionism and imperialism. If we are not in agreement over this situation, we can leave the conference and boycott it. The decision is in our hands. We as a revolutionary Arab force, which has international influence and [economic and military potential, has a mortal and material influence in pan-Arab and international arenas. Our force in this conference will be very influential in this conference. We do not approve deviation or concession. If they impose these on us we will reject them and leave the conference.

This is the issue over which we have reached agreement and subsequently I told them I am compelled to announce this to the Libyan people, as I do not have time to hold popular congresses. Furthermore, I say to you that in taking into consideration the standing of these brothers who have been in Libya for the past 2 days and as they asked me to attend not for the sake of Morocco, but for their sake, and not for the sake of the issue at this conference because the conference has no clear cut issue that makes us at least say that there is this or that issue—this is not the case. Until this moment we do not know precisely what issue will be raised.

In addition to taking into account their counsel that I should go; God willing; I will be going with them to the conference.

I would like to tell you that because Egypt is going to be at the conference—the learned men say that—forgive me for making this comparison: If something makes you drunk if you drink a lot of it, then even any small amount it is not permitted. [sentence as heard]

In other words, shaking hands with the Egyptian president is like sitting next to him one day. It is the same as the saying: If a small quantity of a substance gets you drunk then a large quantity of it is religiously prohibited. If one takes even a drop of something prohibited by religion, then let him quench his thirst of it. Let it be so, since Egypt is present, since we are meeting, since all have resumed their relations with Egypt, despite the fact that we are against it, against its regime, against the recognition of the enemy, that we can never accept to recognize that Acre, Haifa, and Jaffa belong to people who are French, Russian, Italian, German, just because their religion is Judaism. If they want to create a state for the Jews, let them do it in l'Alsace-Lorraine, between France and Germany—they are the ones who tortured them—or in the small states they had taken away from them, [words indistinct], Finland.

We Arabs do not have to bear the consequences of Hitler's crimes and take a bit of land and give it to the Jews. This is impossible for one to recognize, irrespective of the consequences.

This is our position toward the Egyptian regime, but since it is present with us at the conference, you must realize that I bear my responsibility with courage. It is like somebody having—pardon the phrase—to eat a corpse. I will have to talk to him, if I want. I will ask him: Why do you recognize the Zionist enemy when it constitutes a threat to you and to us? Are you helpless? Is there a way of taking you out of the Camp David stables? Do you know that what is called Israel is a danger, and that it cannot be recognized in Palestine, that it constitutes a threat to our coming generations, that one must prepare for inflicting a definitive defeat of this enemy. I must know their opinion.

If all the Arabs have resumed their relations—even Algeria has resumed relations with Egypt—then, all right, if Egypt is innocent. [sentence as heard] I have told them something else, very important. I told them: If you give me a testimony to Egypt's innocence, with all the Arabs writing: Today's Egypt is not Sadat's Egypt, and that it is on its way to confrontation with the enemy, on its way to the fold of the Arab nation, that Egypt is now blameless; if you give me such a testimony, then we Libyans and Egyptians are closer to one another than to any other Arabs. I told them: In the end, if Egypt transpires to be innocent, then we are closer to it than any other Arab state. We enter into a union with it altogether.

More still, in defiance of those who are currently vying with each other to embrace Egypt because it is now moving in the enemy orbit, to spite them we might accept everything in Egypt, until they come to regret it.

With Egypt we have the treaty of the confederation of the Arab republics. Between Syria, Egypt, and Libya there is a constitution; there was a referendum on it. Egypt and Libya have always been one country, demographically and geographically, their land and their people. Even if we and the Tunisian people are brethren, regardless of whether there is unity or not, we were are one family.

Still, Tunisia and Libya have never been in political harmony at any stage of our history, since the fall of Carthage. During the monarchy and during the Bourguiba eras there was mutual aversion. After the revolution, Bourguiba was still there, and therefore there was a mutual aversion. The harmonious political orientation was between Libya and Egypt to such an extent that they did not consider Libya part of the Arab Maghreb. I mean Libya is nearer to Egypt, and Egypt is nearer to Libya, that is we, both of us, are nearer to each other.

If we have to eat what is forbidden, why should we then eat in Casablanca. We should eat it at As Sallum [border town with Egypt]. These are matters which we would like to point out.

Finally, in my opinion the summit conference, for the benefit of the conference, we told them dealing with the Palestinian problem during these circumstances in which all the balances, the military, the economic, the political, the international, and the local balances are all not in our favor. Therefore, any dealing with the Palestinian problem during the current circumstances, which are unfavorable, will compel us to make more concessions. So, why should we deal with the Palestinian problem during unfavorable circumstances? We should wait and remain steadfast. If we are not able to liberate [Palestine], we do not have to recognize [Israel].

These are among the points on which we have agreed on and which have made us a force of rejection, of steadfastness and confrontation—an important force which extends from Syria to Algeria, including Tunisia and Libya. If there is any hint or a statement which smacks of recognition of the enemy from near or afar we will boycott it; we will boycott the conference. Among them are 'Arafat's initiatives, which he alone should shoulder.

We will not adopt them nor will we be responsible for them. He can go ahead. He will, however, come back, in the end, empty-handed. He himself said: Only the fig leaf is left for me; they want to take the fig leaf away from me. If the fig leaf is gone, they will compel me to crawl to cover myself. No doubt this will be the outcome. This is Yasir 'Arafat's course; we will not adopt such a course that will compel us to be naked and strip us even of the fig leaf.

Regarding the tackling of the Palestinian issue in unfavorable circumstances, like the current circumstances, it is harmful to the issue and is harmful to us and it forces us to make more concessions to the enemy. Therefore, there is no benefit that can be had from tackling it in these circumstances. We should consolidate the uprising and the Palestinian resistance; we should continue to reject and say no, no, no, until we are in a position which enables us to say to the world that they must choose either the Arabs or the Israelis. Only then will the world appreciate its interests and most certainly choose the Arabs—who stretch from the ocean to the Gulf—at the expense of the Israelis.

I told them that Taiwan is a small island that belongs to China. After World War II they set up a state, which they called Nationalist China. They regarded it as the legitimate state. They gave it the right of veto at the Security Council and a permanent seat at the Security Council. They would not recognize China which numbered 1 billion people. China, which uses and rides donkeys [referring to its underdevelopment] never accepted Taiwan as a state.

China continued to use donkeys, continued to say no, no, no, and continued to say that Taiwan is an integral part of China until China made the hydrogen bomb. At that time, the world said: You have to choose either China or Taiwan. Even embassies were not allowed to be in two

places: One in China and one in Taiwan. The one who chooses Taiwan has to sever relations with China, and the one who chooses China has to sever relations with Taiwan.

All the world at that time preferred to have relations with a big power, with a population of one billion, and not with the island of Taiwan. This included the United States, who withdrew its recognition of Taiwan and gave it to China. They took away the permanent seat at the Security Council from Taiwan and gave it to China. This was a result of China's steadfastness and its refusal, and because it continued to say no, no, no and that Taiwan is an integral part of China.

Goa was a pocket in India similar to how Palestine is now and the Israeli occupation of it, a pocket in the side of the Arab homeland. The English and the West wanted to entrench a statelet in the side of China and India. India refused to accept it and that Goa is an integral part of India. It refused to recognize Goa until it was capable of wiping it off the map. Actually, during Nehru's time, Goa was assaulted from land, sea, and air, it wiped it off the map. The world forgot that there was a state called Goa.

If India, in a moment of weakness, had recognized Goa in the face of international pressure, then Goa would now be a thorn in the side of India, just as Israel is in the side of the Arabs. We told them these are precedents, examples. We are now unable to liberate but we are not obliged to recognize. We must reject recognizing an alien state in the land of Palestine. We told them that even the Koran, when it spoke about the Jews in this region, spoke of the blessed village meaning old Jerusalem when it was very very small, some 2,000 or 3,000, or 4,000 years ago. Its population was perhaps 50 or 100 persons. But Allah, the Koran, did not speak about Acre, Haifa, Lod, Ramlah, or Gaza saying that these belong to the Jews.

This was the land of the Canaanites for thousands of years. The Cannaanites were an Arab tribe. Until doomsday we cannot recognize that Acre, Haifa, and Jaffa are the land of Germans, French, Italians just because they are Jews. This is not possible. This was done by Al-Sadat, who said that this was the land of Israel and the people of Israel. There is no land of Israel or people of Israel. The Israelites mentioned by God concern a part of Jerusalem, the Wailing Wall only. It is not a political state or anything. It was a matter of worship, a long time ago, a matter that had ended at its time.

How to recognize for the Europeans that Acre is their country? To say that Acre is the country of the European Jews? And Haifa. This is impossible. This is illogical, incorrect. We can in no way recognize it, come what may. What obliges us to recognize something other than truth? If we cannot fight the war, unable to liberate, then we must build ourselves and strengthen and support the resistance of the Palestine people, and we must continue to reject: No, no, no. We must do this until we are able to one day liberate Palestine from the river to the sea, and until we are able to put the world before a difficult choice, to choose its relations with the Arabs or with the Israelis.

At such a moment, inevitably, the world would choose relations with the Arabs, the overwhelming majority would do so, and they would sell the Israelis, but we must be patient.

They say they are going to discuss the question of Lebanon. Lebanon is not a new issue. Concerning Lebanon, the Arab League Council met and formed a committee consisting of six states, which are continuing their mediations in this respect. Let them give them a chance. One year, 2 years, until we see what happens.

Generally speaking, the call for this conference is suspect, but in deference to your brothers I have mentioned I am obliged to go, but if I go, then, as I said to you, I will not be able to take a drop of something religiously forbidden, saying that because it is religiously forbidden then I take just a drop of it, while religious studies say: If a small quantity of a substance gets you drunk then a large quantity of this substance is religiously forbidden. I am ready.

If the Arabs give me a testimony that Egypt is innocent, then the Libyans are the ones that should be with Egypt. Likewise, when the prophet Muhammad found the Jews fasting on 'Ashura Day, he told them: Why are you fasting this day? They told him: This is the day when God had saved Moses from drowning. He told them: We are closer to Moses than you; let Muslims fast on 'Ashura Day.

If the Arabs cleanse Egypt, then we Libyans are the ones that should be with Egypt. We are closer to Egypt than all the Arabs. The struggle continues.

Arab Leaders Conclude Tripoli Meetings, Depart

Further on 22 May Meeting

JN2205144889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tripoli—A meeting grouping His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, who arrived in Tripoli at dawn today, was held at the Libyan Revolution Command Headquarters in Tripoli at 1200 today, Damascus time. The 3-hour meeting was attended by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

The discussion concerned topics that were raised during the tripartite meeting held last night among President Hafiz al-Asad, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and President Chadli Bendjedid. The talks focused on the general Arab situation and the topics to be dealt with by the

emergency Arab summit in Casablanca. Their viewpoints were in agreement on these topics and on the need to bolster Arab steadfastness in the face of Zionist and other challenges facing the Arab nation. The four presidents are due to hold another meeting in Algeria.

Ben Ali Leaves Tripoli

LD2205134789 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia left Tripoli this afternoon following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

President Ben Ali was accorded a good send off. He was seen off by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and Staff Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi.

Al-Asad Departs

LD2205183989 Tripoli JANA in English 1752 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Ma' [May] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President of sisterly Syria Hafiz al-Asad has left Tripoli this afternoon following the conclusion of his visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

He was warmly seen off by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Col. Abu Bakir Yunis Jabir, Col. Mutafa al-Kharrubi and Major al-Humaydi.

Also participating in the seeing off were the members of the Secretariat of the General People's Congress, members of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the People's Congress, members of the People's Committee of Tripoli Municipality, the secretaries of the basic people's congresses in the municipality, a number of the officers in the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and heads of the diplomatic missions accredited to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

After shaking hands with these people, President al-Asad together with Jallud stood on the platform of honour while the two national anthems were sung. The two inspected then the guards of honour. Before boarding the plane, President al-Asad was warmly bid good-bye by Staff Major Jallud, Col. Jabir, Col al-Kharrubi and Major al-Humaydi.

Bendjedid Concludes Visit

LD2205182189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1653 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 22 May (JANA)—President Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Republic of sisterly Algeria, left Tripoli this afternoon following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. A big firewell ceremony was accorded to President Bendjedid. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi were among those who saw him off. [passage omitted]

Rebels Trained 'To Topple Al-Qadhdhafi'

PM1905142889 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 19 May 89 p 11

[Anton La Guardia report: "Libya Rebels 'Ready for Armed Struggle To Topple Al-Qadhdhafi'"]

[Text] Libyan dissidents say they are poised to start an armed campaign to topple Col al-Qadhdhafi unless he stepped down voluntarily. Dr Muhammad al-Muqaryif, secretary-general of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, said in London that the group had trained thousands of rebel troops in nearby countries, particularly Chad.

The front's new military wing, the National Libyan Army, is said to consist mainly of former Libyan soldiers captured during the 1987 civil war in Chad.

Its equipment has also been seized from the Libyans, while its military leader is Col Khalifah Haftar, former Libyan commander in Chad.

Dr al-Muqaryif declined to give details of his force or the exact source of its funds, but he denied reports that the rebels received training from the United States and Israel.

He said the front, based in Egypt, had received money from Libyan businessmen and unnamed Arab governments. The front is considered to be the largest Libyan opposition group, but some analysts are sceptical about its ability to trouble the Libyan Army.

At yesterday's press conference, there were unimpressive snapshots of about 100 rebels training in desert camps, and few weapons could be seen.

In 1984, about 20 members of the front attempted to assassinate Col al-Qadhdhafi.

Dr al-Muqaryif, former Libyan auditor general and ambassador to India, called on Col al-Qadhdhafi, in power for nearly 20 years to stand down to avoid bloodshed.

Libya's ruling elite, the Revolutionary Command Council, is being urged by the front to take control for six months while a constitution is drawn up.

The front says 86 people it accuses of human rights abuses should be brought to trial.

Mauritania

Ambassador to Senegal Reportedly Recalled

AB2305075589 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Dakar, May 23 (AFP)—The Mauritanian ambassador to Senegal, Mohamed Mokhtar Ould Zamel, has been recalled to Nouakchott, informed sources said here late Monday.

Mr. Ould Zamel was believed to be preparing to leave Dakar Tuesday afternoon, diplomatic sources said.

The decision meant that Mauritania would not be represented at a summit of French-speaking countries due to open here on Wednesday [24 May], the sources said.

Sources close to the summit said that Mauritania was not represented Monday at a meeting of ministers of French-speaking countries gathered to prepare the summit.

Diplomatic sources here said it was unlikely Senegal would reciprocate by withdrawing its ambassador to Mauritania, and that the move did not indicate a break in diplomatic relations.

Relations between Dakar and Nouakchott have been strained since ethnic violence between Moors and black Africans swept both countries last month, leaving more than 200 people dead.

Sudan

Arab Tribes, Herdsmen Clash in Darfur Province

NC2205151789 Paris AFP in English 1441 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, May 22 (AFP)—Recent fighting between Arab tribes and Fur herdsmen has left at least 100 dead in west Sudan's southern Darfur Province, Information Minister Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih said here Monday.

But the death toll could be as high as 1,500, the minister added, saying that he was awaiting an on-the-spot report from Interior Minister Mubarak al-Fadil al-Mahdi.

The AL-SIYASAH daily reported Monday that 3,000 Arabs had attacked a group of Fur nomads at Jabal Marrah in the remote province, inciting the provincial governor to ask for central government intervention.

Another paper, AL-ITTIHAD, organ of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), reported that 40 villages had been razed to the ground and 1,500 people slaughtered.

Mr. Abu Salih on Monday condemned "foreign interference" in the province that had sharpened local conflict, in what was taken to be a reference to incursions from Libya and Chad.

Foreign 'Intervention' Noted

NC2205160689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1528 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 22 May (MENA)—Dr Husayn Abu Salih, Sudanese minister of culture and information and official spokesman of the Sudanese Government, has announced that reports from Darfur indicate that non-Sudanese forces are involved in the current tribal conflict in that region.

The Sudanese culture and information minister pointed out that foreign parties, which he did not identify, are involved in the fighting in Darfur. He asserted that the government currently possesses information on this foreign intervention. The available information, however, is not sufficient, he said.

In a press statement today, the Sudanese minister added that the government will adopt the necessary measures with regard to this conflict as soon as it obtains full information. This will happen when the delegation led by Sudanese Interior Minister Mubarak al-Fadil, which is visiting the region, returns from Darfur.

According to informed sources, martial law is expected to be declared in Darfur, in order to contain the security situation on the western Sudanese border.

Meanwhile, Darfur Governor Dr al-Tijani al-Sisi telephoned the cabinet secretariat, saying that military reinforcements must be sent to end the tribal conflict in the region. So far this conflict has claimed the lives of more than 5,000 people, and a large number of villages have been burned down.

The Sudanese paper AL-RA'Y reported today that Darfur Governor al-Tijani al-Sisi has submitted his resignation to Sudanese Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. The paper says that the governor's resignation came in the wake of political and popular pressure on the governor and the serious deterioration of the security situation which the Darfur region has witnessed this year.

The paper notes that Dr al-Tijani al-Sisi sent a memorandum to the Sudanese National Defense Council, stressing that the region needs more security assistance in order to stop Libyan intervention there. The memorandum did not, however, receive adequate government attention.

An informed source has told the paper that in the past 2 days the Darfur region has been the scene of Libyan and Zairian intervention. Modern weapons have been seized, which prove that such intervention has taken place.

Al-Mahdi Reportedly Withdraws Defense Proposal

NC2205190589 Paris AFP in English 1840 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, May 22 (AFP)—Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi withdrew defence proposals to combine Sudan's various militia as a single force from the agenda of a weekend cabinet meeting, sources close to the cabinet said Monday.

Mr. Mahdi's plans, first announced in early March as one of several projects for a new government of national unity, were withdrawn Sunday after he said it was unlikely they would be backed by a cabinet majority, the sources said.

The premier wanted the various militia, which include tribally-based units in the south and west of the country, to be combined as a single Popular Defence Force under command of the Sudanese Army.

The plan was a response to Army calls for the dissolution of the various militia forces, which Mr. al-Mahdi had said were created spontaneously as self defence units against Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels.

Militia forces are said to be operated by Mr. al-Mahdi's Umma Party—a charge denied by the premier—and the fundamentalist National Islamic Front (NIF), which supports the plan to combine the militia units.

The Democratic Unionist Party, which has no militia, is against the plan.

The SPLA has accused Mr. al-Mahdi of trying to weaken the Sudanese Army, which has lobbied for political changes, and create instead a new force which would give him its full support.

Paper Says Al-Mahdi Agrees to Garang Meeting

EA2205144489 Khartoum SUNA in English 0928 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 22 May—The independent daily, AL-SUDANI, today reported that Premier al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has agreed to a "round-table meeting" on south and north Sudan between the Sudanese Government and the rebel leader John Garang. The paper said Garang has also agreed to attend the meeting, which will take place this month between 26th to 28th, and added the encounter is organised by the Christian Democratic Party of West Germany.

Council of State Chairman Leaves for Morocco

EA2205144889 Khartoum SUNA in English 0945 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 22 May—Council of State chairman, Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, left here today heading a high-level delegation to Morocco for the emergency summit, due to start its work tomorrow. The delegation includes Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad al-Husayn, the Southern Sudan Region Council's chairman, Mr Angelo Beda, the state minister at the Foreign Ministry, Ahmad Sa'd Umar, besides Sudan's representative to the Arab League.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Leaves for Casablanca Summit

LD2305091589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 May 89

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali left Tunis this morning for Casablanca to take part in the proceedings of the extraordinary Arab summit. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Crown Prince Leaves for Casablanca Summit

LD2205122189 Kuwait KUNA in English 0858 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 22 (KUNA)—[Words indistinct] by HH [his highness] the amir, HH the Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah Al Sabah left here Monday for Morocco to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference, due to start there on Tuesday.

Shaykh Sa'd is accompanied by an official delegation, comprising Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid al-Rashid and Finance Minister Jasim al-Kharafi.

Senior officials from the amiri and the crown prince and premier's diwans, the Foreign Ministry as well as KUNA's board chairman and director general, chairman of Kuwaiti Journalists Society and chief editors of the local dailies were also among HH's delegation.

Shaykh Sa'd was seen off at Kuwait International Airport by chief of the National Guards Shaykh Salim al-'Ali, shaykhs, ministers and top officials.

ARAB TIMES on New Plan To Help Debtors

JN2205135189 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 21 Mar 89 p 1

[By Jadranka Porter]

[Text] Kuwait is considering freeing the assets of individual debtors who have joined the Central Bank's debt settlement scheme, to boost the country's economy, according to Dr Muhammad Al Sabah of the Higher Planning Council.

Under the new plan debtors, banks, and investment companies will jointly invest and manage the released assets in an effort to help debtors meet their commitments to the banks and breathe new life into the economy, Al Sabah said.

But he pointed out that there are no plans to bail out the debtors. "The debt settlement scheme including the investigation of debtors' domestic and foreign assets will continue," insisted Al Sabah.

He acknowledged that the new plan is a major amendment of the settlement scheme that would harness the debtors' entrepreneurial skills and result in new projects. "Now there is light at the end of the tunnel," he said adding that the settlement scheme as it was executed lacked flexibility.

Millions of dinars worth of assets were frozen when debtors made rescheduling arrangements as part of the programme to solve the financial crisis in the aftermath of the Al-Manakh stock market collapse.

Small investors complained that their assets were trapped and that they were pushed to the margins of economic activity.

He said that debtors who owned land would be encouraged to build on it and others who hold stock in unprofitable companies would be allowed to transfer their holdings. A new set of regulations would be required to put the plan into action and enable the investment companies to act as investment agents for debtors.

Information Cooperation Talks With Libya Begin

LD2005122289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1054 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 20 (KUNA)—Libyan-Kuwaiti talks started here Saturday to boost bilateral information cooperation between the two sides.

The Kuwaiti delegation was headed by Minister of Information Shaykh Jabir Mubarak Al Sabah in addition to Information Under Secretary 'Abd al-'Aziz Ja'far, Secretary General of the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters Dr Faruq al-'Amir, Deputy Director General of KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY Ahmad al-Dashti, and other senior officials.

The Libyan side was headed by Minister of Information and Culture Dr Rajab Muftah Abu Dabbus, and other senior Libyan officials.

Kuwaiti minister of information welcomed his Libyan guest and stressed that Kuwait is keen on boosting information and culture relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Libyan secretary said that he and the accompanying delegation are happy to visit Kuwait.

Dabbus was quoted as saying that he had encountered his highness the amir, his highness the crown prince, and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah Al Sabah and conveyed the greetings of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

The Libyan official said that he is looking forward for continuation of bilateral cooperation between the two brotherly countries in the field of information and culture.

The Libyan official will continue his talks here till Monday.

PDRY

YSP Secretary General Addresses Provincial Rally

EA1905095589 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 18 May 89

[Excerpts] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary-general of the Yemeni Socialist Party Central Committee, this morning made an inspection visit to Al-Dali Province in the Lahj Governorate, during which he inspected the Al-Habilayn-Al-Dali road project which is being constructed by the Roads Department at a cost of 4.6 million dinars.

During the inspection tour he acquainted himself with the progress of the project and was given a lengthy briefing in this respect, covering difficulties which have been encountered. The brother secretary general expressed satisfaction with the efforts being made by the workers and technicians in the course of completing this vitally important project, stressing the need for more efforts to be made to ensure that it is completed on time.

The brother secretary-general met the masses of the province at a rally. Addressing them, he began by greeting this [word indistinct] province on behalf of the Central Committee and its Political Bureau. He said it was commendable that the [word indistinct] were all faithful to our noble martyrs and their aspirations inasmuch as we were today fulfilling one of the injunctions bequeathed to us by the martyr 'Ali 'Antar in the construction of this school. [passage omitted]

[Words indistinct] (?calling on) the masses of the people to cooperate with the local organizations and the mass organizations to solve the problems being encountered in the provision of supplies—as a result of the disastrous floods and rains which struck a number of provinces—by constructing dams, barriers and drain channels and providing materials for this work, with the aim of preserving underground water when needed and preserving [words indistinct] resulting from the floods and rains.

He said: Our aim in visiting the province was not only to open the school, but also to perform other tasks which must be attended to and carried out according to plan, the most important of which are the solution of the [word indistinct] waters, completing the Al-Habilayn-Al-Dali road and the (?wells) project in the province. He stressed the need for the masses to participate in implementing [word indistinct] and important projects such as these by applying their expertise, and by so doing making themselves more capable and farsighted and gaining greater potential.

The brother secretary-general said that the leadership of the party and of the state was currently studying the question of (?political) reform [words indistinct] with the aim of [words indistinct] the revolution, strengthening the socialist (?course) in our country, raising the struggle [words indistinct] of the members of the party and mass organizations and the working [words indistinct] strengthening the role of the party in leading society, overcoming all the [word indistinct] and parasites who have accompanied the application of the revolutionary experiment in our country, improving and diversifying the instruments of the revolution, and applying them in the attainment of a better tomorrow.

He called on the masses to apply their efforts on the economic front and to mobilize all available potential towards overcoming those difficulties obstructing the work of economic and social construction. He called on the masses to participate actively in helping those of their brothers who suffered losses as the result of the disastrous rains and floods which recently struck many parts of the Republic [words indistinct] developing arable land and repairing what was destroyed.

Referring to the national cause, the brother secretary-general confirmed that efforts were continuing towards realizing further unification achievements, by setting up various joint projects and promoting the joint efforts of the leaderships of the two parts [North and South Yemen] and that through these efforts further successes towards the attainment of Yemeni unity [word indistinct] and principles of the September and October Revolutions were being achieved. [passage omitted]

Al-'Attas Stops Over in Egypt, Holds Talks

EA2205220089 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, has stopped at Cairo International Airport on his way to Casablanca to take part in the extraordinary Arab summit.

During the stopover, he held talks with Dr 'Atif Sidqi, the Egyptian prime minister, on the development of inter-Arab relations and the future development of relations between our country and Egypt in various fields. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Leaves for Casablanca Summit

LD2205120289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpt] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Saud, left Jeddah at 1330 today for the Moroccan Kingdom to attend the emergency Arab summit to be held in Casablanca. [passage omitted]

Paper on Iranian 'Terrorism' During Pilgrimage

JN2005124689 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 18 May 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Iran and Terrorism"]

[Text] Ahmad Khomeyni has admitted in a message published in the ETTELA'AT newspaper recently to justify the removal of Montazeri that the Iranians smuggled explosives to the Kingdom in 1986. This acknowledgement is evidence of the depth of the abyss into which the Iranian regime has fallen in the world of terrorism. This admission was made by one of the major pillars of the regime following many denials, through which the Iranian media tried to move the charge away from its masters. Ahmad Khomeyni admits that this crime was perpetrated by those whom Montazeri described as those who committed this erroneous act and brought shame on us during the pilgrimage season.

Despite this shame, the Iranian rulers still insist on committing the same terrorist acts and do not hesitate to declare their intentions without shame after their hands were stained with the blood of the innocents—the victims of mad terrorism—in the holy places and during the holy season.

The Iranian rulers' insistence on imposing their conditions despite the Muslims' unanimous rejection of these conditions is one of the blatant methods through which they want to distract the attention of the Iranians from the real problems they suffer inside Iran. However, the lies, behind which they hide to prevent Iranians from performing the pilgrimage, are exposed to the Iranians themselves: terrorism, encroachment on the nation's unanimity, exploitation of the pilgrimage season to sow sedition among the Muslims—depriving the pilgrims of performing the pilgrimage—and turning the pilgrimage season into political slogans instead of performing the pilgrimage. All these are clear features of terrorism, which the Tehran rulers insist on committing against Islam and Muslims.

If the Tehran rulers believe that such terrorist maneuvers can prevent the Iranians from seeing reality, they will be mistaken because escalating resistance and opposition actions in Iran is the practical explanation of the Iranian regime's failure on all levels. The Muslims' unanimous condemnation of the Iranian regime is another example of the clumsy Iranian method of dealing with internal and external issues.

At a time when everybody is working to close the Muslims' ranks, we see the Tehran rulers working covertly and openly to create sedition among Muslims, tell cheap lies to their leaders, and cast doubts on religious values and principles.

Failure and shame will remain the lot of the Tehran rulers as long as they insist on escalating their stands against Islam and Muslims.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Leaves for Casablanca Summit

JN2205175389 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpt] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has left for the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco leading a high-ranking delegation to the emergency Arab summit. [passage omitted]

Al-Iryani Leaves for Foreign Ministers Meeting

JN2005134589 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress, left Sanaa this morning for Casablanca to attend the Arab foreign ministers conference. This conference will be held in the Moroccan capital to prepare for the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to open on 23 May.

Al-Iryani told SABA' news agency that the Arab summit will discuss the most important Arab issues, particularly developments in the Palestinian and Lebanese arenas.

President Receives Soviet Envoy, Message

JN2005191889 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary of the General People's Congress, this afternoon received USSR Ambassador Veniamin Popov, who conveyed to the president a message from the Soviet leaders.

SABA' news agency said the message deals with bilateral relations and developments in the international arena.

Saddam Husayn Leaves for Casablanca Summit

JN2205162589 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] With God's care and protection, the president leader, Saddam Husayn, has left Baghdad as head of an official delegation to attend the meetings of the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Casablanca.

'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman, saw off his excellency.

The official delegation accompanying his excellency includes Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information. The delegation also includes Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who is attending the Arab foreign ministers' meetings in Casablanca.

Press Comments on Summit

JN2305101089 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 23, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad stressed that the only normal and sole settlement for the Lebanese crisis would be centered on withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon and leaving the Lebanese people [to] decide its future and destiny through dialogue and reconciliation.

The daily, organ of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party, editorially said here today that the Syrian intervention in Lebanon opened the doors of that country before the Zionist enemy, and it was the Syrian regime that gave access to the Iranian military presence there and prevented the Lebanese people and legal institutions from realizing national reconciliation.

It affirmed that the Syrian regime bears full responsibility in destroying Lebanon, killing its people, and leaving its territory open in front of greedy foreigners.

AL-THAWRAH urged the Arab summit, opening in Casablanca today, to put an end to the Syrian military presence and interference and adopt a historic decision ending the plundering of the Syrian regime of the destiny of Lebanon and life of its people.

The daily said this resolution should be clear and calls for withdrawal of all foreign forces and particularly the Syrian troops and making settlement of the Lebanese crisis a complete Arab responsibility in accordance with comprehensive, urgent, and practical formulas.

AL-THAWRAH said the summit is called to end once and for all atmospheres of weakness and disruption and usher the stage of a new Arab era restoring to the Arab nation its solidarity and strength in facing enemies.

AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad referring to the Palestinian uprising called upon Casablanca summit to take a practical and political stand in support of the Palestinian decision and crystallizing a practical stand capable of providing prerequisites for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. This support is necessary for boosting the brave uprising and until materializing the geographic reality of Palestine after materializing its political reality, the daily pointed out.

The daily urged for an Arab stand supporting Iraq's political battle and putting the entire Arab diplomatic and political weight along side Iraq in the negotiation stalled by Iran which does not believe in peace and attempts to stamp out Iraq's firm rights in territory and waters.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, in its editorial here today asked the Arab summit to support Iraq's stand and sincere efforts for peace same as it had supported it during the past years of Iranian aggression.

The daily said that Iraq still needs backing of its Arab brethren until peace and security are restored to the Arab Gulf region and redressing one of the greatest threats on pan-Arab security.

It also urged the summit to support Iraq over the question of the exchange of prisoners of war for it is a question [that] concerns thousands of the Arab nation's sons who defended it and so that they would return to their homeland after their long sufferings in captivity.

Referring to the Lebanese crisis, AL-JUMHURIYAH stressed that this crisis has developed into a war of aggression launched by the Syrian regime on Lebanon and its people and thus needs a decisive Arab stand that would contribute to end the suffering of its people and preserve integrity of its land.

It said that the only settlement of this crisis lies with withdrawing Syrian troops together with Iranian elements that infiltrated into Lebanon across Syria.

AL-JUMHURIYAH said the Arab summit is called to take a decisive decision helping to reach this settlement without amiability [as received] or hesitation and deploying an Arab force there.

Another Iraqi daily, the English language BAGHDAD OBSERVER said Damascus has been trying to prolong the Lebanese crisis and prevent any solution to the problems facing the Lebanese people so as to consolidate its hegemony over this Arab country. With this, the Syrian regime aims at dismembering Lebanon to take a share in a divided country and make up for the loss of the Golan Heights to Israel, in which Damascus has found a partner sharing similar objectives.

With the defeat of Iran at the eastern flank of the Arab nation Damascus is trying to give its (Iranian) ally a power base in Lebanon, thus further complicating the situation in Lebanon to further terrorise its people and to enjoy full domination of Lebanon against the will of its people.

The daily said that it is time to restore unity, sovereignty and security to the war-torn Arab country, and it is the responsibility of all Arabs to see to it that peace and security are restored in Lebanon. This can only be done, and only if, Arab leaders meeting in Casablanca told the Syrians, and their allies, to leave the Lebanese [to] solve their own problems, away from outside intervention.

Saudi Trade Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2205165689 Baghdad INA in English 1550 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 22, INA—Saudi Minister of Trade, Dr Sulayman al-Sulayyim and his accompanying delegation left here today. He led the Saudi side to the meetings of the Iraqi-Saudi Joint Committee in its 5th session which was concluded in Baghdad today.

The committee discussed in its meetings means of developing and promoting bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries and finding new ways and sectors of economic, trade, scientific and technical cooperation between them.

Shamir Describes Meeting With Thatcher as 'Warm'

TA2305053889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 May 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, "shortly after the meeting with Thatcher"—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I explained our peace initiative in detail, and she made very sympathetic remarks saying that she views it as progress toward settling the dispute. On the other hand, she refrained from going into specifics. She only said that there are still many aspects of the issue that need some work.

For my part, I presented our position on all those issues that preceded the peace initiative, and how we view the situation today, following the proposal of the initiative. The Arab side has to provide a reply as to whether it chooses the way of negotiations, or wishes to continue the violence. Mrs Thatcher is, of course, interested in Britain's taking a role and assisting in finding a solution to the dispute.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, after the long meeting you had, do you feel that the ice that existed between you Mrs Thatcher has been broken?

[Shamir] I cannot speak of ice. In the conversation that we held yesterday, at least, there was no ice. Quite the contrary, it was warm with the willingness to maintain friendship, and explicit in its sympathetic atmosphere.

Greater Israel 'Sounds Ironic'

TA2305051589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 23 May 89

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in London by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, "last night"—recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] I have not yet read Baker's speech. In any event, if he did indeed make these remarks, I do not know how can one speak of a Greater Israel. Israel is a very small country. We all know that its territory is very limited. Speaking of a Greater Israel sounds ironic. As to the issue of settlements, it is obvious that we disagree. This is not new. I do not see any link between the settlements and the issue of the peace process, and I made this perfectly clear during my visit to the United States. As the saying goes, we agreed to disagree.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Shamir, Secretary of State Baker also made a remark concerning the Israeli initiative. We do not see in this remark what Foreign Minister Arens had promised—the initiative getting the full endorsement [last two words in English] of the United States.

[Shamir] Look, I know the argument that Israel has given something to the United States since the first meeting Arens held with Baker. This should be viewed positively. We provided them with the opportunity to work on a serious initiative that could advance the aim—which is also a U.S. aim—of settling the dispute. I do not see a contradiction between what Baker said then and our foreign minister's report. I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the report. Our close friendship with the Americans, which has lasted for many years, was and will be entwined with matters on which we disagree.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0400 GMT on 23 May adds: "In Brussels, Foreign Minister Arens commented on the Baker remarks about abandoning the idea of a Greater Israel and halting settlement activity. There is indeed a dream of a Greater Israel, Arens said, and the past had shown that Israel's dreams could come true. On settlement, Arens said Israel differed on this with the United States and remained unshaken in its position.

"Defense Minister Rabin reacted somewhat laconically in Washington. If he, Rabin, had had to write the speech, he said, he would have done so differently and demanded more of the Palestinians and less of the Israelis. Rabin said many Palestinians had recognized Israel's plan as a rare opportunity, but were afraid of supporting it because of the Palestinian terror. The central question now, Rabin said, is whether the Palestinians in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will agree to negotiate with Israel as proposed in the Israeli plan."]

'Friendly' Talks Held in UK

WA2351129

For reportage on the visit of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to the United Kingdom, including an account of his "friendly discussions" with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, see the United Kingdom section of the 22 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'Great Surprise' Expressed at Baker's Remarks

TA2305085889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's top echelon convened this morning to examine the implications of Baker's speech. Great surprise was expressed during the meeting at the harsh remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. It has been reported that the Foreign Ministry will endeavor to clarify Israel's positions through explanatory propaganda. It will note that Israel would rather act toward the advancement of the transitional arrangements, while realizing that deep disagreements still prevail over the character of the final arrangements. This was reported by political correspondent Natan Gutman.

Peres Cited on Remarks

TA2305115589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said today that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was wrong in claiming that Israel must abandon once and for all the notion of Greater Israel. Peres said that Baker attributed the policy of a single party to the whole government, when no such decision exists.

Speaking to reporters, Peres said that Baker's remarks constitute too sharp a turn toward the Arab ear, but some of the remarks made are not new and were mentioned by past U.S. Administrations.

The Knesset Presidium this morning decided that the Knesset would hold a discussion of Baker's remarks next Monday. The Presidium stipulates that in view of the importance of the issue, it should wait until the prime minister and the foreign minister return from Europe to enable them to participate in the discussion.

Remarks Increase Pressure

TA2305114989 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 May 89 p A2

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Excerpts] The assessment in the Likud yesterday was that U.S. Secretary of State Baker's recent statements, and President Bush's desire to confer with Defense Minister Rabin in order to hear his views on the final agreement proposed in the Shamir-Rabin plan, strengthens the opposition to the initiative to the point of giving them a chance of attaining a majority against it.

There were no contacts yesterday between Ministers Levi and Sharon, who object to the Shamir initiative (the third opponent, Minister Moda'i, is currently in the United States and is due back next Monday [29 May]). In fact, Levi and Sharon have not yet had a face-to-face meeting on the issue, and do not have one scheduled. [passage omitted]

The opponents of the initiative argue that Baker's remarks to the effect that Israel should give up its vision of Greater Israel, and stop settlement activity in the territories, indicates a failure on the part of Foreign Minister Arens. Arens had said, after his meeting with Baker, that the Americans would wholeheartedly support the plan without going into its details.

Moreover, the opponents note, these remarks confirm Minister David Levi's warning that the Americans and the Europeans have a conception of the plan differing from that of the prime minister.

They added that Baker's remarks prove that Shamir's statement that "Israel will give nothing to the Arabs," and that the plan will not give up on even one inch of land, are mere wishful thinking on the part of the prime minister. In fact, the Americans are already exerting pressure, and will exacerbate it in order to get concessions.

Some Likud members said last night that the Americans are seeking to pressure the Likud Central Committee to come out in support of the prime minister's initiative. They noted, however, that Baker's remarks were having a counterproductive effect because they create opposition to the plan to the point of jeopardizing the prime minister's position.

A particularly audacious assessment was made by other opponents of the plan. They argued that through Baker's words the Americans are seeking to increase the number of opponents to the plan to a majority, and thereby cause Shamir to go to the president to resign. They are doing this on the assumption that this would increase Shim'on Peres' chances of setting up a government which may be able to put forth new political ideas for a solution of the conflict in our region. [passage omitted]

Shamir on Likud Opposition to Plan, PLO

TA2005104889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0805 GMT 20 May 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Yosi 'Abadi and Dani Vessely on 19 May on the "In the Current Situation" program; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] ['Abadi] Good day to you, Prime Minister Shamir.

[Shamir] Good day to you too.

['Abadi] Your peace initiative is internally opposed, by your party, of all people; Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i have expressed opposition. Are you surprised by this?

[Shamir] I am not surprised. The issue is an important and weighty one, and there is no wonder that there are arguments and doubts and that there are people who question it. One has to cope with this. Still, I think—as I stated in the Knesset and told my colleagues—that one should take into consideration that this initiative has just been launched and is still not subject to negotiations with the other party. We are still far from the stage of signed agreement. The possibility exists—I hope this will not be the case—that this plan will not take off and will not become part of our reality. As a result, I would suggest that everybody beware of turning it into a heavy moot point now, lest it ultimately transpire that we are fighting among ourselves for nothing.

['Abadi] Do you plan to take any steps against Minister Moda'i?

[Shamir] At the moment I am not thinking of taking steps against anyone.

[Vessely] Sharon and Levi have contested the premiership with you in the past. It is no secret that they are not members of your supporters' camp in the Herut Movement. Do you doubt the motives behind this attitude of theirs toward the plan?

[Shamir] Look, this entire war does not interest me. I do not think that I find myself today in any confrontation over my status. I am handling the peace initiative and other important issues now, and my mind is not at all given to personal confrontations. This does not interest me.

['Abadi] Do you plan to take the plan to the Herut Movement for approval?

[Shamir] If there is such a demand, I will not refrain from this.

['Abadi] There is such a demand!

[Shamir] I do not know. It all depends when, at what stage. I assume this is an important issue which is worth bringing up in the Likud Central Committee.

['Abadi] What will you do if the Likud does not approve your plan?

[Shamir] Look, this is very speculative. I assume that the Likud will approve my initiative.

[Vessely] What is the next stage in this plan? Will the United States try to obtain the PLO's consent to it?

[Shamir] We did not ask the United States to do anything regarding the PLO. We oppose any U.S. contact with the PLO. We have said so time and again. We are asking the United States to aid us in creating the conditions for negotiations between us and Arab elements; namely, the Arab residents of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, as well as the neighboring Arab countries.

[Vessely] In your estimation, could elections be held in the territories without at least the PLO's tacit consent?

[Shamir] I assume so.

[Vessely] So, you would not expect the United States to be involved in this direction, right?

[Shamir] We are not asking the United States to have any contacts with the PLO. We are opposed to these contacts. Hence, it would be absurd to request that it maintain such contacts.

[Vessely] Do you expect an alternative leadership to the PLO to emerge in the elections, if they are indeed held in the territories?

[Shamir] I am not talking of the PLO here. The PLO does not concern me at the moment. I view it as an enemy and an obstacle to peace. We want what we have written down in the initiative document: Representatives of the residents for negotiations according to the process we have outlined—negotiations over the transitional arrangements, having a transitional period of self-rule, and later, negotiations over the permanent solution.

['Abadi] Does it not trouble you that those who will be elected, if these elections are indeed held, will probably be people identified with the PLO?

[Shamir] I assume that those people who agree to the entire process will be elected. Otherwise, they will not be able to participate in it. Anyone who wants to take part in the negotiations will be required to agree completely to all stages of the process. The whole matter would be pointless, otherwise. [passage omitted]

Levi 'Adamant' in Opposition

TA2105122789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] At the conclusion of his conversation with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Deputy Prime Minister David Levi remains adamant in his opposition to the government's political initiative. After the talk between the two, which lasted about 30 minutes, Minister Levi told our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that he had expounded before the prime minister on the perils which, in his opinion, will result from the implementation of the political plan. It was agreed that the two will meet again upon the prime minister's return from Europe. In the meantime, Minister Levi will hold talks with other members of the Likud upper echelons.

In reply to our correspondent's question whether he would vote against the initiative were the vote held in the Likud Central Committee now, Minister Levi said: I certainly would.

Cabinet Hears Reports on Security, Immigration

TA2105112489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 21 May 89

[Talk in the studio between moderator Yitzhaq Ro'e and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Good afternoon, political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami. Is there any change in the ministers' attitude to measures taken with respect to the intifadah, in the wake of the shootout in Bayt Awla last weekend?

[Ben-'Ami] This is precisely the issue that was on the ministers' agenda at the beginning of this Cabinet meeting. At first, the Cabinet was briefed by Minister Shim'on Peres, acting defense minister, and by Chief of Staff Dan Shomron and the senior officers who accompanied him.

Both Minister Peres and the chief of staff said that last weekend's Hebron District incident does not belong to the intifadah [uprising]. Minister Moshe Qatzav, on the other hand, contended that this is certainly a part of the intifadah. The chief of staff complained that he is obliged to attach a large portion of the IDF [Israel Defense Force] to Hebron area and southern Hebron Hills, in order to prevent skirmishes between Jews and Arabs. Minister Sciaki reacted by saying: Well, this then is another factor supporting my demand to establish a settler civil defense in Judaea and Samaria, which will facilitate the IDF's duties.

The chief of staff also requested that a law proposal be drafted that would allow the security forces to deport anyone who had been involved in terrorist activities, was detained, released, and then apprehended while repeating the same offenses.

After these briefings, and after the briefing of Minister 'Ezer Weizman, acting as the police minister, who said that the number of hostile acts inside the Green Line has risen recently, Minister Moshe Qatzav said that the defense establishment's steps in Gaza should also be implemented in Judaea and Samaria. Minister Qatzav said that the increasing deterioration endangers the lives of Israelis and that the security elements seem to have accepted this phenomenon.

[Ro'e] Who spoke, 'Ezer Weizman or the minister of police affairs?

[Ben-'Ami] 'Ezer Weizman was speaking as acting police affairs minister, and his report pertained to the spreading of hostile activities into the Green Line.

We are now quoting Moshe Qatzav's remarks: Anyone who believes that mere political moves will stop the violence is naive. He reiterated his demand to bar media from Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza in July and August; the demand to prohibit Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza Strip Arabs from working in Israel during these months; and the proposal that the IDF prepare an operational plan for quelling the violence through a protracted curfew, deportations, and steps of repression.

Afterward, the ministers heard the remarks of three Alignment ministers who rejected the suggestion to implement the policy of curfews and extensive closure in Judaea and Samaria. Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said that the suggestions to widen the closures are very harmful and contradict Israel's responsibility toward the residents of these areas. Minister Ya'aqobi expressed his disapproval of the zigzag moves with regard to curfews in Gaza.

Minister Ya'aqov Tzur, too, said that these proposals by both the left and right wing to widen the closure are an impossible, detrimental, and hysterical move; the IDF should maintain massive presence in villages and in Judaea and Samaria and prevent the flaring of tempers; at the same time, the effort to realize the political initiative should be pursued.

Minister Yitzhaq Navon came out against the fact that the defense establishment had imposed an extensive closure on the Gaza Strip without receiving any kind of Cabinet approval; he further said that any planned change in the defense establishment's policy with regard to the territories should be first brought to the Cabinet.

[Ro'e] Will they have time to discuss the issue of immigrant absorption, after this important debate which has been going on since the beginning of the session?

[Ben-'Ami] Yes, absolutely. The security debate ended at approximately 1200, and we can now see the ministers leaving. That means that after 1200, the Cabinet discussed the immigrant absorption issue. Before that, it took time out to approve three economic appointments: Eli'ezer Yunes was appointed as the accountant general; Yoram Gabay as the state revenue administration director, and Nati Sharoni as the economic affairs attache in New York.

By the way, Arye, as of 1800 tonight, Minister Peres will be acting prime minister, vice prime minister, and acting defense minister.

Settlers Demand Probe of Policy 'Blunders'

TA2105115289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Leaders of the Jewish settlers in Hebron and its environs demand that a national commission of inquiry be set up to look into what they call the blunders of the defense establishment in defeating the uprising. The demand is included in telegrams the settlers' leaders sent to all right-wing party Knesset members. Aharon Domb, head of the information center in Hebron, told our correspondent Moti Amir that the settlers are surprised by the chief of staff's comment in the Cabinet meeting today on confining IDF [Israel Defense Force] units to the Hebron area. The settlers hope this comment is not tantamount to an attempt to atone for the blunders made in Hebron, in the wake of which the settlers have become moving targets for the rioters.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motion

TA2205195589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The Knesset rejected a no-confidence motion submitted today by the Citizens Rights Movement [CRM]. The motion cited the criticism leveled in the state comptroller's report on political nominations.

CRM Knesset Member Ran Kohen said in the Knesset that the cynical reactions to the report by government ministers clearly show that they intend to continue ignoring moral directives and the rules of public administration. This was reported by our correspondent in the Knesset Dov Gilhar.

Peres: West Bank Isolation Sign of 'Bankruptcy'

TA2105174389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, who is also acting defense minister while Minister Rabin is abroad, believes that last week's incident in the Hebron area does not prove that the intifadah [uprising] has moved to the use of firearms. According to him the terrorists did not begin shooting; rather, they defended themselves. Mr Peres expressed the hope that the elimination of the squad would restore calm in the area.

Mr Peres added that the proposition to cut off the territories and their inhabitants, raised by Minister Moshe Qatzav and Knesset Member Hayim Ramon, is impractical. He said that this is an indication of psychological and political bankruptcy, adding that in a world with almost no economic barriers there is no reason for us to create them. Minister Peres spoke to our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami at the conclusion of the Cabinet meeting.

Rabin on U.S. Aid Package, Hamas Activists

TA2205192789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 May 89

[Report on interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Nisim Mish'al following Rabin's 22 May meeting in Washington with U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney—recorded]

[Text] [Rabin] I believe, and I would like to be careful in what I say, that the U.S. Administration will make a serious effort to promise that Israel will not be hurt in any sphere in the 1991 budget and will get all it has customarily received.

[Mish'al] Later on Rabin discussed the widespread arrests in the Gaza Strip.

[Rabin] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was involved in several very serious incidents over the past few weeks. I will not get into details regarding each one specifically. That is why we decided, even before I left Israel, to impose a state of closure and more curfews on the Gaza Strip. We arrested a central figure the night of 18 and 19 May, before I left the country. We also made a serious effort to arrest as many Hamas activists as possible. This organization is today responsible for more crimes against Palestinians as well as Israelis than any other element.

[Mish'al] Do you think these arrests can help the political initiative?

[Rabin] I do not think there is a contradiction between introducing a peace initiative and actions taken to stop violence and terror.

W. Bank Hamas Leader Arrested

TA2305122689 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 May 89 pp A1, 2

[Excerpt] Simultaneously with the arrest of some 250 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in Gaza, the security forces arrested Shaykh Bassam Jarrar from al-Birah near Ramallah, considered the leader of Hamas in Judaea and Samaria. A senior security source said that the shaykh was arrested in Gaza a few days ago as he was trying to coordinate subversive actions with Hamas activists in the Gaza Strip.

Jarrar did not ask for permission to enter the Gaza Strip, as he should have. Jarrar has in the past told MA'ARIV that the Islamic movements would reject any compromise between the Zionists and the PLO if it is based on the partition of the land into two states. On the same occasion, Jarrar added that his movement strives to dominate the entire world in a bid to impose a religious Muslim regime. He has been arrested in the past.

High-level security sources believe that the investigation in the wake of the arrests of Hamas members in the Gaza Strip will be expanded to include Judaea, Samaria, East Jerusalem, and even areas within the Green Line. The security authorities believe that at least some of the leaflets issued by Hamas were printed in the Galilee and the Triangle with the help of Israeli Muslim movement activists.

The activists arrested include some well-known figures such as Shaykh Salamah Safadi of Gaza's Falastin Mosque, Shaykh Radwan Nikhalah from Gaza, Marwan al-Zu'rub from Khan Yunus, and Muhammad al-Zu'rub from Rafah. Most of the men arrested are being held in Gaza's central jail and are being interrogated by the Shin Bet. Security sources believe that the exposure of the Hamas terrorist squads will lead to a significant decrease in the riots in the territories.

Arab sources in Gaza argue that the security authorities had known about the Hamas terrorist squads for 2 months, having received a lead on them through the interrogation of two activists, Salah Shihadah of Gaza and Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz Rantisi from Khan Yunus. According to these sources, the Israeli army arrested several Hamas activists in Tulkarm a few days ago as they were trying to organize a military parade. [passage omitted]

[In a report by Avi Bnayahu, Pinhas 'Inbari, and ITIM on page 3, Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 23 May adds: "Security sources say they have learned that Defense Minister Rabin received the green light from the

United States to arrest the Hamas leaders in order to give a boost to PLO leaders in the territories; this would demonstrate to these leaders that Israel does not encourage elements in the field who might compete with them in the event that elections are held in the territories, thus attaining their agreement to hold such elections."]

Activists Sentenced

TA2205171789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The military court in Gaza has handed down prison sentences of 6 and 5 years to Subhi al-Yazizi and Nahid Abu 'Awdah, two activists of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], for a series of acts of sabotage and attempted attacks on Israeli army soldiers. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Leaflet Praises Abductors

TA2205110789 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 May 89 p 4

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] The detained Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] men had printed a leaflet, No 37, in March that contained the first reference to the kidnapping of the IDF [Israel Defense Force] soldiers.

The leaflet, which has not yet been published, says: "The intifadah [uprising] is moving forward and providing the answer to the iron fist of the conqueror. The death of the soldier in Nabulus (probably meaning IDF reservist Beni Meisner) and the loss of other soldiers in the Gaza Strip are but a warning to all soldiers and officers that Palestinian blood is not water, and is dearer than Jewish blood."

Leaflet No 37 further praises those who kidnapped the soldiers: "Praise the Gaza Strip for making two of the Nazi soldiers disappear." The leaflet was written after Avi Sasportas was already missing, but before Ilan Sa'adon disappeared.

In response to HA'ARETZ' question whether the detained Hamas activists are being questioned regarding the murdered and missing soldiers, a military source said: "It is too early to talk about it."

IDF Denies Amnesty's Allegation of Execution

TA2105073789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 May 89 p 8

[Report by David Horovitz and Joel Greenberg]

[Text] London—On the eve of Prime Minister Shamir's visit to Britain, Amnesty International has accused two Israeli soldiers of the premeditated murder of a 26-year-old Palestinian near Ramallah.

A spokesman for the London-based human rights group told THE JERUSALEM POST on Friday that it had "sworn testimony from eyewitnesses" to what it feared was the "deliberate extrajudicial execution" of 'Atiyya Hirzallah [name as published], in the village of Dayr Ibzi near Ramallah, on February 27.

The spokesman added that a telex had been sent to Shamir two weeks ago concerning the killing, noting that there was evidence to suggest Hirzallah had been "summarily executed," but said no response had been received.

Accordingly, Amnesty was demanding an urgent investigation into the death, as well as renewing its call for a full and independent judicial inquiry" into the wide range of human rights violations by Israeli forces since the outbreak of the intifadah [uprising]."

To draw attention to this demand, Amnesty is to hold a demonstration outside the Israeli Embassy here tomorrow. A representative of the human rights group has also briefed Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave about its concerns, urging Waldegrave to press the call for an inquiry when he meets with Shamir tomorrow.

Detailing the Hirzallah case, Amnesty stated that the shooting took place in the centre of Dayr Ibzi at 9 p.m. Hirzallah, who has served a nine-month jail term for membership in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, was walking with four friends when they were stopped "by two Israeli soldiers who had been waiting in hiding behind a wall near an olive press.

"On orders from the soldiers, the youths raised their hands. One soldier turned a flashlight on the four, then focused it on 'Atiyya Hirzallah.

"The other soldier then shot him with an M-16 rifle at almost point-blank range."

According to the testimony of Hirzallah's friends, he was hit twice in the head and once in the right shoulder. The soldiers forbade anyone to touch him for 30 minutes, after which he was taken by villagers to Ramallah Hospital and pronounced dead on arrival.

Joel Greenberg adds:

An initial IDF [Israel Defense Force] report on the incident said Hirzallah died after an army patrol opened fire when attacked with rocks at a roadblock. A subsequent Military Police investigation found that troops acted properly.

However, the findings were subsequently called into question by MK [Knesset Member] Dedi Zucker (Citizens Rights Movement) who cited a report by a reservist that hinted at a coverup. A brigade-commander in the

Ramallah area told his unit that he had told military investigators Hirzallah had been wanted by the authorities, "and this eased the investigation."

West Bank Schools Closed for Another Month

TA2105110889 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 May 89 p 2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] The Civil Administration informed the school principals in the West Bank 2 days ago that the injunction ordering the closure of all educational institutions in the area has been extended by 1 month.

The UN Relief and Works Agency [UNWRA] headquarters in Vienna reacted to the order by publishing an announcement stating that this action means the loss of an entire year of studies in West Bank schools. UNWRA expressed deep sorrow over the decision.

The educational institutions in the West Bank have been intermittently opened and closed by the authorities since the start of the uprising in the territories. It was recently decided to close all the schools on the West Bank from the middle of January until further notice. [passage omitted]

More on Incidents in Territories 22 May

TA2305085189 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 23 May 89 p 6

[Report by Mikhal Qedem, Oren Kohen, and Shim'on Elqabetz]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, thousands of laborers from the Gaza Strip left for work in Israel, thus ending the general strike declared by the Unified National Command of the Uprising. Quiet prevailed in the Strip yesterday, though Arab sources reported that seven people were wounded. Yesterday, a new leaflet, No 40, was disseminated in the territories. In the leaflet the leadership of the uprising urges people "to set fire to Zionist agriculture and factories." [passage omitted]

Residents of the Dayr al-Balah refugee camp reported that three youths were slightly wounded by soldiers' gunfire. In the Khan Yunus refugee camp two youths were wounded in the legs and hospitalized in Al-Nasir Hospital in the city. [passage omitted]

Four military policemen were slightly wounded yesterday as they came under a barrage of stones in the village of Yattah on the Hebron Hills. Reinforcements were needed to rescue the soldiers from the village. [passage omitted]

Last night the IDF [Israel Defense Force] initiated operations in several villages in Samaria. Many suspects were detained. In one such operation, in the village of Battir, many persons wanted by security elements were apprehended, including heads of local shock committees.

Arab sources reported that a 12-year-old girl was wounded by a rubber bullet yesterday. The incident took place in the Bayt 'Ayn al-Ma refugee camp. Another 12-year-old boy was severely wounded in the chest in the Gaza neighborhood of al-Shaja'iyah. He was hospitalized in Al-Ahali Hospital in the city. In the al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood, a 9-year-old boy was wounded yesterday. [passage omitted]

West Bank settlers yesterday set up an organization called "A Hand to a Friend," whose aim is to assist Arabs who are suspected of collaborating with the Israeli authorities. The organization is trying to find housing in Jewish settlements in the territories for the families of three collaborators. It has become apparent, however, that Qiryat Arba' residents will refuse to let Arabs reside among them. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST on 23 May, in a similar report by Mikhal Sela' and Joel Greenberg on pages 1 and 12, adds: "In clashes with troops, seven women were reported wounded by steel marbles fired by soldiers in Tulkarm." "In Ramallah, a woman was reported wounded in clashes in the local vegetable market."

Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 23 May, in a report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami on page 4, adds: "Two nights ago unidentified assailants shot and wounded a man suspected of collaborating with the authorities in the Shu'fat refugee camp. The wounded man was taken to Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem."]

Bedouin Gets 10 Years for Selling Grenades

TA2105141789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] A bedouin who had been convicted of stealing fragmentation grenades and selling them to Fatah members in the course of his military service has been sentenced to 10 years in prison by the Lod military court.

Our correspondent Yisra'el Peretz notes that one of the stolen and sold grenades were used by the squad that committed the terrorist attack on a Haifa street in which 25 civilians were injured.

Netanyahu Welcomes Egypt's Return to Arab League

TA2205133289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has welcomed Egypt's return to the Arab League, provided this shows that the Arab world is coming closer to peace rather than Cairo's nearing the circle of hostility.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Deputy Minister Netanyahu called on Egypt to take action toward the fulfillment of the first two clauses in the Israeli Government's peace initiative by ratifying its support for the Camp David accords and terminating the state of war between the Arab countries and Israel. Mr Netanyahu was speaking at a cornerstone-laying ceremony for Peace Gate which President al-Sadat and Prime Minister Begin crossed at Ben-Gurion University in the Negev.

Egyptians Chase Away Elat Casino Ships
TA2005114289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The Egyptians have begun to act against the casino ships at the Elat bay. A boat of the Egyptian Coast Guard, which arrived at the Tabah area yesterday, drove away the gambling boats that were anchored near the Egyptian coast. The deputy commander of the Elat police told our correspondent Yehudit Silverstein that the police do not have the instruments to check exactly where Israel's territorial water border end, saying that special equipment is necessary for this.

Syria Bars Food Imports by Golan Druze
TA2005093789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The Syrian authorities forbid the Golan Druze to introduce food from Israel. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that an announcement to this effect was conveyed by Syria to the Israeli Interior Ministry through the International Red Cross. It is believed that by means of this ban the Syrians are trying to prevent the impression that there is a severe shortage of food commodities in their country.

PRC Culture Minister Arrives on Visit 21 May

JN2105115289 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Chinese Minister of Culture Mr Wang Meng arrived in Amman today at the start of a 5-day visit as part of a tour in the region.

The minister will meet the prime minister, Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and the minister of culture and information, Mr Nasuh al-Majali, on ways of promoting Sino-Jordanian cultural cooperation.

Meets With Prime Minister

JN2105183389 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir received PRC Culture Minister Wang Meng this evening in presence of the culture and information minister and the delegation accompanying the Chinese minister. During the audience, the prime minister expressed Jordan's eagerness to promote bilateral relations in all fields, especially in the cultural field, which constitutes an important channel for strengthening bonds of friendship and understanding between peoples.

This evening Culture and Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali discussed with the Chinese minister ways to promote cultural relations between Jordan and the PRC. They reviewed the program of cultural cooperation between the two countries and the possibility of adding new proposals that would expand prospects of cultural cooperation between them.

On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by the director general of the Ministry of Culture and a number of ministry officials. On the Chinese side, the talks were attended by the accompanying delegation.

Science Agreement Signed With Soviet Union

JN2305070589 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 May 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan and the Soviet Union Monday signed an agreement, paving the way for bilateral cooperation in scientific and technological fields.

The agreement which was concluded between Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) and the Soviet Academy of Sciences, provides for measures to protect the environment, and combat desertification and opens the way for cooperation between the two sides in biological technology, marine life, alternative energy resources including solar energy, seismological activities to predict earthquakes and tremours, exploration of mineral resources and underground water.

The agreement stated that it will serve as a first step towards wider Soviet technological and scientific cooperation with the other three members of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which, besides Jordan, groups Iraq, Egypt, and North Yemen.

According to the agreement, the two sides will organise seminars, lectures and scientific research programmes to be initiated before the end of this year.

The three year renewable agreement was signed by Dr Jawad al-'Anani, HCST secretary general and the head of the visiting Soviet team Dr Oleg Bogatikov. The agreement came at the end of a five-day visit to Jordan by the Soviet team, whose members have already visited Jordanian universities and scientific institutions to discuss bilateral cooperation.

IMF Official Commends Government Economy Policy

JN2005081289 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] A senior official of the International Monetary Fund—the IMF—has said that Jordan is dealing with its economic crisis boldly and is making the necessary reforms, and, therefore, it will continue to receive constant support from the IMF.

The official, Dr 'Abd al-Shakur Sha'lan, director of the IMF Middle East operations, said in an interview with REUTERS that Jordan's reform programs are courageous and comprehensive. Jordan, he said, is due to repay part of its foreign debts this year and will reschedule the remaining part. Dr Sha'lan, who is currently visiting Amman for talks with the Jordanian Government officials, said the IMF management approved 10 days ago the letter of intent containing Jordan's reform program. The program, he explained, will be submitted to the IMF Board of Directors this summer, after which Jordan could start receiving credit facilities from the IMF totaling $125 million. Jordan can then ask the Paris Club of creditor countries to reschedule the debts.

Dr Sha'lan said Jordan has already started the process of reform. After talks with an IMF delegation in March and April, he went on to say, the IMF agreed to support the government program with IMF resources and to help reschedule the foreign debts. The reform program, he said, will be a cooperative effort between Jordan and the IMF and the World Bank and other commercial banks. Dr Sha'lan noted that the progran is oriented toward accepting the fact that Jordan had been living beyond its means for a long time.

Asked what he thought of the dinar's current exchange rate against the U.S. dolar, which stands at 540 fils for the dollar, Dr Sha'lan said the exchange rate as it stands now is appropiate in view of the government policies being adopted. Dr Sha'lan asserted that the IMF has no

objections to Jordan's plan to spend well over $100 million this year in the form of a government subsidy to staples and essential foodstuff commodities.

Security Director on Smuggling by Expatriates

JN2105090689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 May 89 p 1

[By Faysal al-Shubul]

[Text] Amman—It was noticed recently that a large number of expatriates working in Jordan have begun to purchase and send gold to relatives in their native countries because of the strict measures being applied by commercial banks regarding supplying them with their requirements of foreign currency for transfer abroad. Expatriates seek to transfer almost all their wages in Jordanian dinars. This phenomenon is caused by their inability to obtain a sufficient amount of foreign currency.

Were this phenomenon to expand in the future, it would inflict great harm on the national economy.

Public Security Director Staff General 'Abd al-Hadi al-Majali affirmed that this is no more than an individualistic phenomenon. He added that the security services have managed to seize some gold from those smuggling it, including a case involving 5 kg of gold.

In a statement to the newspaper SAWT AL-SHA'B, Al-Majali said that inspection and monitoring campaigns have been launched at border posts and airports to prevent the smuggling, which has also involved the smuggling of some supply items, such as sugar, whose prices have become lower than in neighboring states.

The Union of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce has asked the Central Bank of Jordan about this phenomenon and its potential effect on the Jordanian economy.

Ministry Official on Oil, Energy Affairs

JN2005075889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 May 89 p 16

[Interview with Dr Ibrahim Badran, secretary general of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources by unidentified reporters; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] AL-DUSTUR: The issue presently occupying the people's minds is that of discovering oil. What point has oil exploration reached?

Badran: Yes, oil does concern people in Jordan. In my opinion, we are under mental pressure concerning this resource, especially when we see that all Jordan's neighbors have substantial amounts of oil.

Oil exploration in Jordan has not succeeded because we have not drilled a large number of wells. Our efforts are neither beginning nor ending; the Natural Resources Authority is making a national effort in oil exploration, along with many foreign companies.

National efforts in this field are good. The government is giving the issue of oil exploration special importance and is providing the Natural Resources Authority with all available support. The oil question requires patience.

The available indications point to real and large expectations and opportunities. However, they require time and effort. There are no secrets about the oil exploration operations. They are laborious and complicated by numerous factors and elements, which make it an issue requiring great effort and a lot of time.

In no country other than the Arabian Gulf states was oil discovered without great effort. Companies in Libya, for example, drilled 70 wells before they discovered the things we know about. In Jordan, we have only drilled 50 wells.

AL-DUSTUR: It has been said that the gas discovered in Al-Rishah district is from the region previously in Iraq. Is that true?

Badran: A few years ago, the Iraqi-Jordanian borders were demarcated. The discoveries that have been made are quite near to the Jordanian-Iraqi border.

The rumors about the presence of oil in the region now in Jordan but previously in Iraq are merely popular speculation.

AL-DUSTUR: It is said that for political reasons, the Dead Sea has not been approached yet. How true is that?

Badran: There is not a grain of truth in all these rumors. The government is very serious about oil exploration in all potential areas where it believes there are positive indications. There are no regions where drilling is determined by political considerations. Drilling cannot take place in every region because it is an expensive process; therefore, it is restricted to areas where the indications are positive.

National efforts are being exerted everywhere, and if anyone knows the whereabouts of oil, he should point them out to us.

AL-DUSTUR: Since exploration operations are concentrated and continuous, how much is being spent nationally? And what is the profit?

Badran: Government expenditures have reached 12 million dinars and the return is so minimal that it is difficult to measure since the expenses on exploration so far are

considered a long-term investment. The expenses have been set for collecting information, studies, and statements, which will serve the purposes of exploration for the coming years.

AL-DUSTUR: There has been talk of canceling the Tapline because it is no longer economical. Is that true?

Badran: No. Oil import policy is formulated by the government. It takes into account the special trade relations between Jordan and the Arab countries, especially Iraq and Saudi Arabia. The Tapline is still functioning at full capacity. So there is no truth to the rumor of canceling or replacing this line.

It is no secret that we are transporting oil using fuel trucks from Iraq to the Jordan Petroleum Refinery for our internal consumption at a rate approximately slightly over our needs.

AL-DUSTUR: Does Jordan receive its oil needs free of charge?

Badran: Jordan's treasury pays $400 million annually for oil. The Kingdom receives nothing free of charge. Everything that Jordan imports is handled on a commercial basis and is the result of hard trade negotiations. Therefore, when the government speaks about the burden of the oil bill, it presents real figures paid by the treasury, like any other trade deal in the oil market.

The news media has a role to play in clarifying this. Some people believe that Jordan receives free oil when in point of fact we are paying the whole bill. No country exports anything free of charge. All this is wishful thinking.

AL-DUSTUR: It has been repeated that the government will reduce the price of gasoline. Is this correct?

Badran: I have no information on this at all. No such information is being circulated at the ministry. And I do not believe that such a thing was discussed. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR: Oil shale was discovered many years ago, but it has not been exploited yet.

Badran: Studies have proved the existence of huge reserves of shale oil in the Kingdom—32 billion tonnes. Great efforts are being made to benefit from shale oil. The Natural Resources Authority is making lengthy studies in cooperation with foreign companies to find the best way to exploit it. The only problem is that the investment required to exploit oil shale is very high. There are different technologies for this purpose. We are trying to find the best technologies.

The Jordanian Electricity Authority has met with a number of specialized companies—among other national efforts to exploit oil shale—to study the possibility of generating electrical power from this material. [passage omitted]

AL-DUSTUR: Is there any intention to generate electricity from nuclear power stations?

Badran: We have a small section for nuclear power at the Energy Ministry. Nuclear power stations are large. The power of the smallest station is 440 megawatts. In Jordan, the largest unit available is 130 megawatts. Therefore, we cannot use nuclear power stations unless the network is large and the electrical capacity is very high.

It is too early to speak about generating electrical power from nuclear power. This might take place in 20 or 25 years because the network in Jordan is small and energy consumption is smaller than the capacities of nuclear stations.

AL-DUSTUR: Are there plans for electrical linkage among the four Arab countries?

Badran: Electrical linkage among states helps in establishing large stations and affords an opportunity to use nuclear power stations. Therefore, we hope that the linkage among Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and Iraq will go ahead. And if it takes place, there will be a good opportunity to resort to nuclear power stations.

Electrical linkage between Jordan and Egypt is not an easy matter because it must go by sea and join incompatible networks. This requires many studies and analyses. The Jordanian Electricity Authority, in cooperation with Egypt's Electricty Authority, is conducting the necessary studies. The study on the economic and technical advantage of the project has been accomplished. [passage omitted]

New CBJ Governor Named; Radar Project Canceled

JN2105103489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 May 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—The Council of Ministers Saturday appointed Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi as governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to succeed Husayn al-Qasim, who resigned, the Jordan News Agency, PETRA, reported.

PETRA said Al-Nabulsi, 61, would assume the post Monday.

The cabinet did not name a successor to CBJ Deputy Governor Mahir Shukri, who resigned earlier this month.

Al-Nabulsi, a former cabinet minister, served as CBJ governor from 1973 to 1985. After leaving the bank, he joined the Baghdad-based Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA), a United Nations regional agency, as its executive secretary. Later, he served as a governor of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

In a regular session chaired by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, the Council of Ministers also decided Saturday to cancel a radar project for Al-'Aqabah airport, PETRA said. The decision was taken in line with a recommendation made by the Financial and Economic Committee of the Cabinet and the $10.5 million aid extended to the project by the U.S. Aid [as published] for International Development (USAID) will be channelled to other priorities, the cabinet statement carried by PETRA said.

The cabinet endorsed an agreement with Brazil on economic and trade cooperation. The three-year agreement provides for the resumption of exports of Jordanian potash to Brazil and for trade exhibitions and freedom of transit of goods originating in either country to third parties. Brazil used to import 200,000 tonnes of Jordanian potash every year.

Columnist Discusses Currency Devaluation

JN2105110089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 May 89 p 4

["Sunday's Economic Pulse" column by Dr Fahd al-Fanik: "The Devaluation of the Dinar in Retrospect"]

[Text] What happened to the Jordanian dinar [JD] during the past twelve months has became history, but history can be evaluated in retrospect although it is irreversible.

The chain of events that led to the devaluation of the dinar started on May 2, 1988, when the people rushed to the moneychangers to change their dinars into dollars, seeing that the Central Bank reserve of foreign convertible currencies was almost melting down. The exchange rate of the dinar lost 15 per cent to the dollar in one day, without any official decision made to that effect. The government and the Central Bank stood firmly in favour of maintaining the official exchange rate. CBJ [Central Bank of Jordan] threw several million dollars into the thin parallel market and ordered the banking system to abide by the official rate. Things appeared to have got back to normal.

A second rush on the dinar took place on June 2, 1988 when people realised that the foreign exchange position of CBJ was not improving, and that the depletion of the reserve became a matter of time. Once more the dinar dropped in the moneychangers market by around 20 per cent. Again the official position was a stubborn determination on upholding the declared exchange rate. The CBJ intervened with whatever dollars it had left and issued further strict orders to the banks; and once more things appeared to have returned to normal.

Until then it was evident that both the government and the CBJ were determined to protect the exchange rate and avoid devaluation at any price. They were acting on the conviction of some economists and all politicians who looked at the dinar as a sacred untouchable symbol. Everything was used to achieve this unrealistic objective, including orders and the use of the meager reserve left.

However, the economic and financial realities were stronger than the vehement decision. The crisis reproduced itself for the third time on Oct. 10, 1988. This time the CBJ was completely out of free dollars, and could not intervene. After four days of hesitation, the dinar was already devalued in the market, and could have plunged to any level.

At this point, the fixed rate of the dinar was no more a practical option. If the government insisted on having banks use the official rate, no one would sell a single dollar to the banking system as long as the moneychangers were offering a 25 per cent premium. Therefore the floating of the dinar on Oct. 15, 1988 was no more than a recognition of an ipso facto devaluation dictated by market forces.

The floating system was meant to allow the CBJ to withdraw gracefully from the management of exchange rate that was no more manageable. The CBJ simply did not have dollars to back or protect any exchange rate.

Floating of the currency is an exceptional case in developing countries. It outlived its usefulness. Time was ripe to a return to fixed rate, but at the new market-determined level. This step was not taken until Feb. 8, 1989 under the pressure of a new speculation wave against the dinar in the moneychangers market. Perhaps the step should have been taken one month earlier, at the beginning of the year, but the government had already developed the habit of not acting except in a crisis environment: to put off fires instead of preventing them.

The point is that the chain of changes in the dinar value did not result from willful decisions. The government did not create new facts, it was reacting under difficult circumstances, and was obliged to choose the least of two levels.

The major mistake was not in the actions taken towards the dinar. At the time, no alternative option was available. The major mistake lies in allowing the fundamentals of the economy to reach that stage. Under a balance of payments deficit of around $400 million, and under a budget deficit around JD 400 million, it is impossible to maintain any exchange rate.

The blind determination to keep a fixed and over-valued exchange rate that was not supported by the fundamentals of the economy was a dangerous prescription that was attempted in a number of Arab and socialist countries, with disastrous consequences which we did not need to go through.

Editorial Criticizes 'Shamir's Illusions'

JN2005070289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 May 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Shamir's Illusions"]

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said it all when he Thursday [18 May] described the Shamir election scheme in its present form as no more than an effort to waste time and to escape from the international pressure that calls for a just and honourable settlement in the Middle East. His Majesty has also summed it up perfectly well when he said that the Palestinians' exercise of their right to self-determination is at the heart of the matter and any peace plan or formula is sound only to the extent it grants the Palestinian people this inalienable right. Yet, His Majesty went on to say, the final arbiter of the Israeli election idea was, is and will always be the Palestinians themselves.

In case Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and like-minded Israelis have not heard well Jordan's firm and principled stand on the peace process in the Middle East, the latest words of King Husayn should serve as yet another reminder that Amman is not about to be lured to any Israeli schemes no matter how much they are sugar coated. Jordan has said its first and last word on this subject a long time ago and Israel and its supporters would be well advised to realise that it is not in the nature of the country to fiddle with its fundamental positions on all matters including the one that touches most directly on the Palestinian question. Much valuable time could be saved in the quest for a permanent and just peace in the Middle East if only Israel and like-minded parties would heed Jordan's words of advice.

Unfortunately there are those who pretend that they do not yet comprehend Jordan's position and continue to harbour false illusions. The sooner this cycle of illusions and false hopes disappear from Shamir's vocabulary, the sooner the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict could get on with real business of moving forward to attain the elusive peace between Israel and the Arab World. Of course the biggest illusion of all is Israel's arrogant determination to cling to Arab territories and maintain its control over the West Bank and Gaza Strip while at the same time pretending that it has a genuine peace plan to offer the Arab side. It is therefore obvious that the Israeli ruling establishment, alas, has yet to learn the true lesson of the Palestinian uprising.

Michel 'Awn Holds News Conference 20 May

NC2005184589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1432 GMT 20 May 89

[News conference held by Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn with unidentified correspondents in Beirut on 20 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, allow us to begin by referring to your message to the Arab leaders. Can we say that this message might be sufficient in the event no invitation is sent to Your Excellency to attend the Arab summit conference? Or do you expect to receive an invitation? And once there, what will you demand, as the person currently in charge of the liberation battle?

['Awn] My demands are clear. The delegates and the Arab League know what they are. They have known since the Tunis meeting. I am demanding the attainment of a goal which has been made public and enjoys international support—at least, it enjoys international support as far as legal stands are concerned. I am demanding Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. This is the theoretical stand which we want to turn into a practical one.

Now when we speak of Lebanese unity, how can they support two governments? There is only one government. If they support Lebanese sovereignty, how can they accept foreign presence on Lebanese territory, regardless of whether we call it enemy, occupier, friend, or brother. We have come across all these terms in the lexicon of Lebanese events. If they support Lebanese territorial integrity, how can they accept the slicing off of territory by two regional states, Israel and Syria? Hence what is required now is a practical spelling out of this basic political stand. We do not want any more parrot-like stands, the mere repetition of words without any practical content or stand.

An open message has been sent so that the correspondence would not continue to be secret. I do not want secret correspondence. I have done a great deal. I had conversations which have not been made public. We sent letters which have not been published. All this was done according to diplomatic norms. Now I am addressing the presidents and kings, because this is a historic occasion and the Arab people must also be aware of what we are saying. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, what about your personal attendance at the summit?

['Awn] My personal attendance has no effect. It has an effect when one is defending an unknown cause which has to oe defended by argument. At any rate, if they invite me, I will go. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Does this appeal, which comes days before the convening of the Arab summit, signify an admission that Lebanon will not attend at the level of either of the two governments and an acceptance that Lebanon will be represented by its ambassador to Morocco?

['Awn] To begin with, I will not be represented. If I am not invited, I will not be represented. This is an official position. Lebanon will either be represented by its president [ra'isuhu] or not at all. This is a clear position. With regard to the resolutions, it is the resolutions themselves which will determine whether they are to be effective or not. It is not my presence which will determine their effectiveness.

[Correspondent] Will you deal with the Arab summit in accordance with the resolutions it will adopt?

['Awn] Certainly.

[Correspondent] And if these resolutions are negative...

['Awn, interrupting] We will not say negative. I do not believe there are negative resolutions. Either the resolutions are positive or there are no resolutions. There are no negative resolutions.

[Correspondent] What are the positive resolutions?

['Awn] I have specified them. I have specified and clarified them. If one wants to defend Lebanon's unity, one must create a central authority for it and remove the obstacles from its path.

[Correspondent] If the resolutions turn out to be less than these aspirations, what will our position be regarding...

['Awn, interrupting] If they are less than our aspirations, at least they must constitute a step on this path. Otherwise, we will decide when the time comes. I am telling them, it is not I who will judge the Arab League—the Arab League will have judged itself. [passage omitted]

The moral and material responsibility is that of the Arab League, because Lebanon is one of its founding members. The Arab League has a charter. We are asking them to implement the Arab League Charter. There is nothing to it. If the Arabs do not want to implement the legal provisions which they drew up and signed, what are we to expect them? How can they blame us for whatever we do then? [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, regarding the Arab summit conference, perhaps the Arab leaders are embarrassed as to whom to invite. Of course, we consider that this is the legitimate government. Perhaps they are embarrassed. Don't you think that Lebanon could help dispel this embarrassment? Are there any preconditions about whom to invite?

['Awn] Where is the embarrassment? I can see none. They can invite the prime minister of the legitimate and constitutional government—that is, General Michel 'Awn. As for the other government, I can overstep it with one single word. The Arab leaders can invite both governments. I can overstep the other government with one word. Dr Salim al-Huss represents the Syrian occupation. He has no right to attend the summit. [passage omitted]

In Algeria, several million Algerians supported French rule, but despite this they could not replace the Algerian Liberation Front. Under Nazi rule, France itself was ruled by the Vichy government. De Gaulle fled alone. But the Vichy government, armies, and French colonies were unable to replace De Gaulle alone, who rallied his forces from Britain and liberated France. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] If the Arabs fail to extend an invitation to Lebanon—although the Lebanese issue is one of the main issues on the summit conference agenda—if the Arab leaders fail to invite Lebanon, is it possible that Syria could have exerted such an influence on the Arabs? What is your stand on this issue and what is the significance of this Arab frustration?

['Awn] The Arabs are now faced with a test. If they fail, I believe that we can put a question mark on the fate of the Arab League. There are small and large Arab countaries. If the Syrian attempt in Lebanon succeeds, it allows the larger country to devour the smaller one. There are several small Arab countries surrounded by larger countries. We do not know which will devour which in the future.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, is there a fear that major fighting may erupt before or after the Arab summit, especially since there has been a qualitative development in the confrontation and some movements by the Syrian Army on land, at sea, and in the air?

['Awn] I am not surprised by any actions the Syrians take. This has been taken into consideration and I see no surprises. I am surprised to hear people say they were surprised or scared. We are faced with an overall confrontation. Everything is possible. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Given the current Lebanese situation, is a flare-up acceptable, at least on the regional level?

['Awn] Everything is possible. Tell me, what is not permissible in the region? [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] The appearance of aircraft is a new phenomenon in the battle we are fighting. What is its significance and how do you explain it?

['Awn] As I have said in earlier statements, the Israeli and Syrian occupation forces are certainly collaborating. I maintain that the Syrian and Israeli occupation forces are in unison on Lebanese territory. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, it has been noted that on the eve of the convening of the Arab summit, the United States and Britain advised their nationals to leave Lebanon immediately. Can this be explained on security grounds or does it indicate a military eruption? What is your interpretation of this?

['Awn] As a matter of fact, it indicates a lack of propriety. At least they should have told us before disseminating these reports to the media. Moreover, I do not know if there are any more Americans or British nationals in Lebanon. I believe this is a political maneuver, no more, no less. Anyway, this maneuver can scare no one, because they fled long ago, in 1983. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What about the British position?

['Awn] I cannot explain it. I think that they told their nationals to leave because there is no justification. [sentence as heard] Perhaps the Americans are angry, or afraid that we might kidnap them. I believe that in our area no one bombed their embassy, killed a Marine, or kidnapped any American. Maybe they are afraid of [words indistinct] they did not inform us that something will take place. I think that, in view of the friendship between us, the Americans should have told us if there is any danger. They should be concerned about our lives and should tell us to be careful, that we might be subjected to bombardment. Anyway, there are no longer any Americans in East Beirut.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, based on your statement, if there were a danger would you request a defense pact with any country?

['Awn] A defense pact for what? What for? Today one must defend oneself, using one's own resources. He who can pay the price will take you. He who has the price will take what's left of Lebanon, or take Lebanon. Let me emphasize here, before the Lebanese people, that no one has the price, not on any of the fronts.

[Correspondent] What if the Syrians use aircraft?

['Awn] Let them use them. Let them even come and occupy us. We will not surrender, I swear it. At least then we will bequeath our sons the right to claim the elimination of the occupation.

[Correspondent] Will the assassination of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic, contribute to enlightening the other area on the need to take part in liberating Lebanon?

['Awn] The other area is already enlightened, as I have repeatedly stated. I have pointed out that the Syrian regime is one of prisons and graveyards, but no courts. The assassination of his eminence, God bless his soul, was the latest crime to be committed in Lebanon, but there will be others. As long as the Syrian regime remains in Lebanon, the series of crimes will continue. These

crimes will either target individuals—whenever someone dares to speak up or reject a certain policy—or groups that take action. This is the price of liberation. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, why do you think Mufti Khalid was assassinated at a this particular time, on the eve of the convening of an Arab summit [words indistinct]?

['Awn] Because his political thinking was not based on the Syrian model. He was not a proponent of the Syrian occupation. He was an advocate of unification and liberation. Unification and liberation dictate that Lebanon must not be partitioned. Partition and fragmentation are Syrian objectives. Liberation means the withdrawal of the Israelis and the Syrians. This attitude runs counter to Syria's policy of maintaining a permanent presence in Lebanon and elimianting any leading personality in the country.

In the areas under occupation, any leading figure gathering 10 persons around him is in danger. Do you think those who shout about their alliance with Syria would still be around if there were no Michel 'Awn calling for liberation? Not even a sergeant in Syria would receive them were it not for the fact that there is a Gen Michel 'Awn in Lebanon demanding the liberation of Lebanon. Were it not for this, their presence would not be needed. They just use them as a cover [words indistinct]

[Correspondent, in English] Prime Minister 'Awn: I would be grateful if you can (?answer this question) in English. What are you asking the Arab League summit [words indistinct] to do for Lebanon and do you believe that Egypt's return to the Arab League will not [words indistinct]?

['Awn, in English] I hope so because, you know, what I am asking from the Arab League is to respect its own pact and to implement this pact in Lebanon. So there is nothing in that, and Egypt has the duty to do it like the other countries. If not, it will be too bad for the Arab League and for Lebanon too.

[Corresponden, -in English] Do You believe that the Arab League can do something for Lebanon even if there is no one directly from Lebanon represented [words indistinct]?

['Awn, in English] Certainly, because the Lebanese problem is very known by everybody there, and if some people say the opposite, I think it will not be right. So our presence is not important because what we want is a withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, a goal which needs no further explanation and is known by everybody there.

[Correspondent, in English] There have been reports in the past few days that Syrian planes have been flying over [words indistinct]. Can you confirm [words indistinct] and if so will you do something about it?

['Awn, in English] Well, I confirm that. I confirm that and, certainly, we will try to do something.

[Correspondent, in English] Like shoot them down?

['Awn, in English] Well, we'll use what we have as means for that.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, you talked about prices a short while ago. There is talk of some sort of a bargain concerning Egypt's return to the Arab League in exchange for [words indistinct] for Syria regarding the Lebanese issue. What do you think of this talk and, if true, what is your comment?

['Awn] They cannot use this attitude in the Arab League and set a precedent. As I was saying, there are small and big countries. If they do, then tomorrow perhaps another country would do the same and swallow another country. Then, it would not be a charter of mutual respect, but of mutual swallowing, I mean the Arab League Charter. Therefore, I think this is incredible, and it is not something that I would expect Egypt or President Husni Mubarak to do.

[Correspondent] It is to be noted that there are three big Arab blocs of which Lebanon and Syria are not members. Does this explain the Lebanese-Syrian conflict, since it falls outside the framework of these three Arab blocs and axes?

['Awn] Maybe, because the relationship is not based on sound bases. These big Arab blocs were established because their members were searching for peaceful means to fulfill their common needs and satisfy them among themselves, and so that they could have some kind of integration among them. Here, however, there is a tendency to dominate and control Lebanon. No attempt is being made within these blocs to elimiante anyone's identity, whereas here Syria is trying to overshadow Lebanon's identity. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, how do you explain Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's remark, following his meeting with Secretary of State Baker, when he said we were striving for more than this? Do you interpret this as meaning that he wanted more support for Lebanon and less for Syria, or more support against Lebanon?

['Awn] I clearly interpret it as meaning that he wanted more support for Lebanon. The Soviet position is nearer to the justice of our cause than the American position. We confirm this with regret. After the UN secretary general said the war was not a sectarian or civil war, but

an international war on Lebanese territory, the Americans tried to pull back, describing it as a civil war, in order to cover up the Syrian role here. This is regrettable. A joint communique should at least contain a reference to UN Security Council Resolutions 425, 508, 509, and 520, which call for Israeli withdrawal from the south and the withdrawal of the other forces froma the Lebanese territory. The fact that these resolutions were not mentioned means it was less than what is demanded, and this is how I interpret Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's remark.

[Correspondent] Mr Prime Minister, there is also a French role. President Mitterrand will be going to see President Bush. Foreign Minister Dumas is going to see Shevardnadze. Mitterrand said that France's relations with Syria are not characterized by warmth regarding the situation in Lebanon. How do you explain the French role in the coming stage?

['Awn] The French position is definitely principled and sound. It is based on historical and international legality. France's friendship with Lebanon is a historical fact; its stand today, legally speaking, is very sound—it is the soundest and closest. France is ready to take practical stands in line with its legal position. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Regarding the humanitarian role, Mr Prime Minister: We know that UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar is entrusted, at least on the humanitarian level, to act with regard to Lebanon. We are living under a Syrian blockade. How do you explain the inactivity of the United Nations? Is the cordon so strong that the UN secretary general must wait for some development to break it?

['Awn] I think that they are awaiting the resolutions of the Arab summit on 23 May before undertaking any other activity. I cannot think, even for a moment, that Syria can impose a blockade here against the will of the United States, Europe, and the Arab world; only with their consent could Syria do this. If this is being done with their consent, then we can adopt a different policy and will know what to do. Either we will put our hands up or we will go on fighting. We have to be convinced that neither Mr Baker nor anyone else can do anything. The U.S. fleet went to the Gulf and ensured the movement of oil tankers for the entire world, because it considered the oil supply to be an international need. I hope that they will also consider us as part of this world, and that we have a human need to live. With one word they can end the blockade. Therefore, I think that they are waiting for 23 May to find out what the Arab states will decide.

[Question indistinct]

['Awn] There is no doubt that the Syrians want an explosion for two reasons: First, in order to cover up their refusal to implement the Arab foreign ministers' resolutions. They were depending on me to obstruct them. It happened that we have once again disappointed them and we have not obstructed them. There is now an Arab black mark against them. The second black mark was the assassination of his eminence the mufti. The entire world is pointing the finger at them, irrespective of the allegations they publish in the press to the effect that Gen 'Awn was responsible for it. They need people to believe them, because they are bankrupt. They are interested in doing something to attract attention at this point and turn the Arab summit conference into a security committee. They do not want the summit to talk about political issues, they want it to become a security committee. An explosion in the situation is of interest to them. We are trying to be very patient, and we hope God will give us greater patience.

[Question indistinct]

['Awn] If the world needs this example to believe that the war is a Lebanese-Syrian one, this will be a catastrophe. Are the 180-mm and 240-mm guns the product of the foundries of Al-Mukhtarah [Junblatt's home town] or of the Tibnin foundries of Nabih Birri? [laughter] No, they are produced by the Soviet Union and are the weapons which the Soviet Union supplied to Syria. Hence, we regret to say that the Soviet Union has a very important role to play with regard to the Lebanese issue. The weapons were supplied to Syria to enable it to liberate its own territory, not to subjugate another people or destroy the infrastructure of peaceful towns. Therefore, I appeal to President Gorbachev to ask Syria what it did with the weapons he gave it. Is it liberating its territory with these weapons or is it killing innocent people?

Israel Plans 'Large-Scale Attack' on Neighbors

NC2205200989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] The ARAB WORLD NEWS AGENCY [name as heard] has said that Israel is preparing a plan for launching a large scale attack on Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, similar to the 1967 aggression.

It added that Arab and Lebanese circles have recently received Western diplomatic reports disclosing this plan. It said that the aggression will be timed with a large scale campaign to evacuate Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to Jordan. It also said that the Israeli army has drawn up a comprehensive military plan to reach deep into Lebanese and Syrian territoris and all of the Al-Biqa' valley. It stressed that Israel's aim is to force the confrontation states to hold direct negotiations with it and that Israel hopes that this aggression will destabilize King Husayn's rule and compel him to establish a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation as an alternative to the Palestinian State.

Radio Commentary on Pope's Message to Herzog

NC2105074689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 21 May 89

[Political commentary: "What Is Going on Between the Vatican and Tel Aviv?"]

[Excerpts] Pope John Paul II has sent a message to the president of the Zionist entity asking for his intervention to protect the Maronites in Lebanon. In his message, the pope asks and wonders why Israel has so far not intervened to save the Maronites. [passage omitted]

What is really puzzling is why the pope has chosen the Zionist entity, among all others in the region, to ask to intervene in Lebanon? The message contains a clear request to declare and launch war against the Islamic presence in Lebanon, this presence which the pope does not recognize.

This message by the pope of the Vatican automatically reminds one of the popes of Paris and Rome who supervised the joint Jewish-Christian crusades against the Muslim countries. More than that, the pope's message has convinced us, and spared us the trouble of analysis, that war will erupt shortly and that the pope is participating in preparing the ground for Israel's intervention in the fighting this time, after the reactionary Arab sponsorship of 'Awn's war against Syria and the Muslims in Lebanon has failed.

The message also implies that the war which will break out will be very violent and ferocious and on a scale unprecedented in the past 14 years. This time, the battle, aggression, and terrorism will be under papal-Israeli sponsorship.

Dear citizens, you must not be surprised if you see the pope on television directing the military operations from Tel Aviv or the B'abda Palace, as the popes of Europe used to direct the crusades from Rome and Paris, and as the roving papal envoy between Jazzin and East Beirut is currently directing them.

The important thing is that the pope of Rome has unmasked himself and exposed his true nature, which was hitherto not known by the ordinary citizens despite the discovery of several scandals in which the papal church was involved in the past years. These included the dispatch by the pope of several missionary delegations to Iraq during and after the war which Saddam Husayn imposed on Islamic Iran in order to preach Christianity and turn Islam from a majority into a minority religion in Iraq. These missionary delegations benefited from the hostility of Saddam al-Takriti, his foreign minister, and their cliques toward Islam.

Another scandal in which the papal church was involved came to light with the discovery of several espionage networks in Tehran working for the United States and Britian. These networks worked under the cover of Vatican school and univesity missions to teach the Christians of Iran the principles of the Gospels.

Following this papal message to the president of the Jewish statelet, we are now more certain that "The Satanic Verses" was published and distributed at the orders of the papal and Zionist missionary movements. This is particularly so because Pope John Paul II kept silent and did not utter a word of protest against the publication of this book. As usual, he is only enthusiastic to talk when the interests of the West are endangered. When the Muslims and non-Muslim oppressed peoples in all the parts of the world are subjected to slaughter and extermination, this does not concern the pope of Rome either directly or indirectly. The ugliest crimes and the most horrible massacres are being perpetrated against the Muslims in occupied Palestine. Yet, the Vatican pope has not bothered to denounce, condemn, or protest the acts of the Jews. [passage omitted]

The war that the pope has promised us through his message to the Zionists will be considered by us as a declaration of war against Islam by Rome. We will be free to choose the time and place to answer these calls. We will not allow the pope, his groups, and his allies to begin their new crusade from Lebanon. And, last but not least, we ask: What is going on between the Vatican and Tel Aviv?

Shams al-Din on Message

NC2105061489 Beirut Domestic Service in Aabic 1030 GMT 20 May 89

[Statement delivered by Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din on 20 May commenting on a message sent by Pope John Paul II to Israeli President Hayim Herzog—read by announcer]

[Text] We became attentive and were surprised when it was announced and published that His Holiness Pope John Paul II sent a message to the head of the Zionist enemy's state, urging him to adopt urgent measures to avert the destruction which is threatening Lebanon.

This initiative raises many questions about the role that the pope is demanding for Israel in Lebanon, knowing that Israel is an enemy of Lebanon and that it occupies part of its territory. It has been demanded that Israel withdraw from all Lebanese territory, and the Lebanese have resorted to national resistance to confront this occupation.

Does this message by the Vatican demand Israeli cooperation in supporting the Zionist Lebanese factions against all the Muslim and Christian sons of the Lebanese people, in order that the small minority may dominate the other sons of the Lebanese and all of Lebanon? Does this cooperation seek to deal an Israeli military blow against the Lebanese and Syrians? We also ask: Why has His Holiness not written a letter demanding

support for the Arab efforts and cooperation with Syria and the Lebanese sides to deal with the Lebanese crisis? Does this message mean that the Vatian approves the massacre which the military group has committed against the Lebanese? Does this message mean a prelude to the internationalization of the Lebanese crisis and a disregard for the Arab efforts? Does it mean an approval of Israel's outlook on Lebanon and of Israel's stand on its crisis and the whole Arab-Israeli conflict, as well as of Israel's stand on the struggling Palestinian people's uprising against the tyranny of Israel, the aggressor and usurper of Palestine?

This message causes surprise and raises our doubts, particularly since the Vatican confines its contacts to the aggressor Israel, whose continuous occupation of and aggression against Lebanon is one of the basic reasons for the Lebanese crisis and the destructive sedition which has ruined everything. By this sedition Israel seeks to fragment Lebanon, dominate its fragmented parts, and bite off its lands.

This message raises the greatest doubt and causes the greatest concern to us, particularly if we note that there are no official relations between the Vatican and Israel and that the Vatican has not recognized Israel since its establishment in 1948. It is our view that this message constitutes a very serious recognition of Israel.

We consider this contact between the Vatican and Israel as an extremely serious development, which we fear might express the Vatican's realistic and factual outlook on Lebanon. In other words, we fear that it is the Vatican's view that Lebanon represents the narrow geographic area inhabited by a limited Lebanese minority, and that this alone is its concept of Lebanon. This outlook contradicts in part and parcel both the reality and the declared stands of the Vatican. Lebanon belongs to all its sons, and it is based on coexistence and the law of justice and equality among them all.

We fear that this papal message indicates a new outlook concerning Lebanon and reveals the Vatican's deep view on Lebanon. It is useful in this regard to recall that any formula for a solution for Lebanon which would reproduce the political Maronite system and hegemony over the Lebanese people is a rejected formula. We will resist this formula in order to change it and establish a system on the basis of coexistence that is just and fair to all Muslim and Christian Lebanese.

We yearn for a clear and just relationship with the Vatican in order to cooperate to restore peace to Lebanon on the basis of justice and equality. We believe that the moral and political role is extremely important in restoring rationalism and reason to some Christians who harm Christianity by their excesses and their violation of the most sanctified teachings of Christ Our Lord, peace be with Him, who ordered justice and benevolence, and also to those Christians who violate the ties of the great faith which God's prophets and all his messengers have ordered.

Vatican's 'Surprise' at Reaction

NC2105074989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Vatican sources have expressed surprise at the reaction to the message of Pope John Paul II to Israeli President Hayim Herzog. They noted that this message was within the framework of messages sent to a large number of world leaders concerned with the situation in Lebanon.

These sources said that what was published was an inaccurate and partial text of the message and did not reflect its real content.

Al-Rasi Chairs Discussion of Mufti Assassination

NC2205145489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi has chaired a security and judicial meeting in his home. Public Prosecutor Muhammad 'Ali Sadiq; Major General Umar Makhzumi, internal security forces director general; Brigidier General Nabil Farhat, Army's intelligence chief; Brigidier General Muhammad Qubrusli, Beirut police commander; Brigidier General Mahmud Fawwaz, gendarmerie commander; Colonel 'Isam Abu Ziki, judiciary police commander; and Colonel As'ad al-Taqsh, public security director general, attended the meeting.

The conferees discussed the results of the investigations into Mufti Shaykh Hasan Khalid's assassination and the measures of the competent authorities to uncover the crime.

Accuses Israel of Crime

NC2205160589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 22 May 89

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi chaired a security meeting today to discuss the current security situation and the results of the investigations into the assassination of Mufti of the Republic Martyr Shaykh Hasan Khalid.

Dr al-Rasi affirmed that all the official departments will spare no efforts to find out the identity of the murderers. Minister al-Rasi accused Israel of perpetrating the assassination. [passage omitted]

U.S. Senator DeConcini Arrives on Visit

Received by Al-Asad

JN2105120589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1300 today U.S. Senator DeConcini and his delegation. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Damascus Edward Djerejian. The talks centered on the situation in the Middle East and its developments.

Meets With Khaddam

JN2105113589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] In Damascus, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received at 0930 today U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini and the accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by U.S. Ambassdor in Damascus Edward Djerejian. The talks centered on events in the region.

Confers With Qaddur

JN2005200389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, received U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini this evening. Salamah 'Allush, director of the America desk at the Foreign Ministry, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The minister explained the overall Middle East situation and the Lebanese issue.

Al-Asad Receives Bendjedid Telephone Call 20 May

JN2105073889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 21 May

[Text] His excellency the president received a telephone call from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid yesterday evening. They discussed Arab issues during the telephone conversation.

Foreign Minister Addresses Nonaligned Meeting

JN1905075689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] Harare—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said: We in Syria welcome any endeavor to achieve just peace. However, we do not fool ourselves when we see and hear what Israel does, which confirms that it is the enemy of peace.

In a speech yesterday at the Nonaligned Movement Coordination Bureau's ministerial meeting currently being held in Harare, the minister explained that Israel's false claims about peace are merely a planned maneuver to deceive world public opinion on the one hand and to assure the Israelis that the plan to create Greater Israel is still at the heart of the Zionist ideology on the other.

Al-Shar' said: Our political moves should not be made at the expense of our principles. Furthermore, our rush to win world public opinion should not be made at the expense of our rights.

The minister touched on the issue of international detente and pointed out that what is positive should be encouraged and what is negative should be rejected. He said: Under international detente, Israel's rulers are now trying to entrench their occupation of Arab territories in a public challenge to all that has been said about the significant change for the benefit of the Palestine question.

Al-Shar' referred to what was revealed by the battle of the State of Palestine's recent attempt to join the WHO. He explained that this indicated that the states which applauded the Palestinian side for giving important gains to Israel are not ready to give in return any, even insignificant, gain to the State of Palestine. The minister said: In light of this, we do not rule out the possibility of Israel persuading its allies that the continuation of the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] has become an obstacle to settlement.

Al-Shar' also discussed the challenges faced by the Nonaligned Movement. He said: The movement scored great achievements in confronting aggression, colonialism, and racism and in dealing with development issues. The foreign minister asserted that the road of challenges before we can achieve all of our movement's objectives remains very long. He said that this calls for more solidarity and for adherence, more than ever before, to the Nonaligned Movement's principles and objectives, particularly under the new transformations in international relations.

Al-Shar' continued: It is natural for peoples to view these new transformations with great optimism and hope. He asserted that the Nonaligned Movement has a real interest in moving international relations from the phase of confrontation and clashes to a new phase of detente and understanding.

In his speech, the foreign minister asserted that any failure by the Nonaligned Movement to influence the new phase will mean that the Nonaligned Movement countries will appear victims of their own mistakes after they were—during the phase of confrontation imposed on them—direct victims of the aggressive policy of the imperialist powers and their tools.

The minister also discussed the situation in Namibia and called for intensifying efforts to put an end to the apartheid [preceding word in English] system and its aggression against neighboring countries.

Regarding the situation in Afghanistan, the foreign minister asserted that the formation of a broad national reconciliation government in which all classes of people participate is the realistic solution to stop the bleeding. He asserted the need to abide by the Geneva agreements.

The minister expressed the hope of achieving a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus question. He also affirmed Syria's support for the reunification of the Korean peninsula through peaceful means.

The minister also asserted that Syria calls for comprehensive and total disarmament in order to strengthen peace and security in the world according to the objectives and principles of the UN Charter.

Economy, Foreign Trade Minister Interviewed
PM2205104889 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-23 May 89 pp 36, 37, 39-41

[Interview with Economy and Foreign Trade Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi by Ibrahim 'Awad in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Awad] I asked Minister Dr Muhammad al-'Imadi, who received us in his office 1 hour earlier than the official office hours: Could you give readers a clear idea of your country's economy, its capabilities, the difficulties and problems facing it, and the solutions which have been applied in that regard?

The minister replied in a quiet voice which did not change over the 1 and 1/2-hour interview:

The Syrian economy in composed of the following main production elements: its agricultural capabilities, natural resources, human and scientific capabilities, and industrial and trade expertise. This, in addition to the country's strategic position, which is a real link between the East, with its old and deep-rooted civilization, and the West, with its advanced scientific civilization. [passage omitted]

['Awad] All of that is fine, but you are always pointing to the difficulty of advancing the economic development process and to the absorption of Syria's resources by its defense requirements.

[Al-'Imadi] That is absolutely true. And I would not be revealing any secret if I said that the Syrian Arab state adheres in its political stances to principles from which it will never depart by a single inch, regardless of any resultant personal sacrifices or financial burdens. Foremost among these principles is the liberation of Arab territory and the Arab people and the defense of sacrosanct Arab rights. Our people will maintain this resolute stance under their leader Hafiz al-Asad until their objectives and aspirations are realized. And through self-reliance and with the fraternal and friendly states' backing, they will overcome all the difficulties obstructing their march, including the foreign debt problem.

['Awad] What is the volume of Syria's foreign debts, and how will you settle them?

[Al-'Imadi] If Syria is suffering from the burdens of foreign debts, it is not the only one, since all of the developing countries are suffering that phenomenon. As I said, the reason for resolving that problem in Syria is the country's commitment to the resolute principled stances adopted by the summit conference in its resolutions on the defense of the Arab homeland's borders against Zionist aggression and the commitment of a number of Arab states to bearing part of subsequent financial burdens.

And it is known that if all, instead of just some, of these states had honored these pledges, there would have been no need to ask such a question.

['Awad] It is said that you rely on agriculture at the expense of other sectors. Is this true?

[Al-'Imadi] Undoubtedly the agricultural sector's development has emerged clearly, especially in the recent period, through that sector's contribution to the GNP [Gross National Product]. In the past this contribution decreased because other sectors were given more attention. But production has increased substantially since 1963, because government work priorities have been directed to the agricultural development issue. [passage omitted]

['Awad] How much U.S. wheat do you actually need?

[Al-'Imadi] Our dependence on imported wheat varies according to the rain seasons. Despite the use of improved seeds and modern methods, the quantities needed for consumption still exceed our output, because the population increases by 500,000 a year. And also because the bread, bulgur, pasta, and sweetmeats industries rely totally on wheat. The requirements range from 500,000 to 1 million tonnes according to the season, as I said. We currently import our requirements from various sources, including the EEC, Canada, Turkey, and in the past from the United States. We also imported from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wheat similar in quality to Syrian wheat, which is considered a good variety.

['Awad] Could you give us a picture of the industrial sector and the mining industry?

[Al-'Imadi] The government's desire to increase the industrial sector's output in the past years has achieved the desired results. The government has persevered recently in taking effective measures to develop the industrial sector and increase output, including the following:

Operating plants in their present capacities, supplying the necessary raw materials and spare parts, and directing them toward exports, as in the case of the cement, glass, leather, and textile plants; and supporting private

and joint sector industries by granting tax relief, simplifying industrial license procedures, and facilitating the procurement of production requirements.

The government is conducting studies on private and joint industrial enterprises to attract funds from expatriates and citizens of Arab states.

['Awad] It seems, however, that expatriates are still hesitant to send their money to the homeland or invest it there.

[Al-'Imadi] The government is working to take measures to encourage expatriates and citizens of Arab states to invest their money in the country's development projects. To that end it has granted them numerous facilities and privileges:

They are allowed to transfer their profits, the returns of their enterprises, and their capital abroad in the currency in which they brought their funds into the country, or in any other transferable currency;

Foreign employees are allowed to transfer their salaries abroad in foreign currency;

Equipment, installations, vehicles, and materials needed to operate factories or for use in agricultural enterprises, health services, and so on are allowed into the country without being subject to foreign trade regulations and bureaucratic procedures;

The Syrian Central Bank guarantees all funds entering for investment purposes;

The government provides guarantees against nationalization, confiscation, and seizure. [passage omitted]

['Awad] Recently you broached the possibility of exporting oil. What stage have you reached in terms of discoveries?

[Al-'Imadi] The use of latest technological methods in exploratory work—including three-dimensional seismic survey and electromagnetic methods—in detecting hydrocarbon desposits led to the discovery of a number of new oilfields and gasfields in 1988.

The exploitation of some of these discoveries since 15 February has increased light oil production to 200,000 barrels a day—an increase of 100,000 barrels a day. This, in addition to medium and heavy oil production, which totals 170,000 barrels a day.

As for gas, it has been discovered in a number of fields, and work is under way in the exploration fields and there is a great hope that some of them will produce gas or oil. [passage omitted]

Palestine Broadcast Assesses Rabin's Remarks

JN2105195689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 89

[Palestine Broadcast: From the "Spotlight" feature]

[Text] Brother strugglers: What is the meaning of Zionist war criminal Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that it would be easier for the Zionist army to quell the intifadah [uprising] under what he termed the new Israeli political initiative? This simply means that Shamir's plan to hold elections under occupation is not a peace initiative, but part of a plan to strike at the intifadah and consecrate occupation as explicitly admitted by Rabin. Washington should take this admission into account while it is being invited by the intifadah to relinquish its support for Shamir's plan. It is being invited to do this so that it will not be a partner to the Zionist plan of repression against the Palestinian people's will to free themselves from the yoke of occupation and eradicate the servitude to the occupiers.

The cards of Shamir's game have been exposed. The international community should do its duty by toppling these cards and pressuring for a formula of a real and just peace in the region. This should be done for the sake of a peace under which the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are secured and under which they can eradicate the yoke of occupation and freely exercise their right to self-determination on their land.

The destiny of the Arabs of Palestine is determined by the Arabs of Palestine and neither the Zionists nor any other quarter should impose on them a destiny of which they do not approve. Our people's struggle for the liberation of their homeland will continue until the enemy is forced to withdraw and concede our people's rights.

Commentary Views Summit's Tasks, Responsibilities

JN2205142789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen, Syria is concerned about the need to mass Arab resources and direct them toward serving the Arab central cause—the cause of conflict with the Zionist enemy and its plots, which threaten the aspirations and future of our Arab nation. Based on this concern, Syria, through the militant march led by the militant president, Hafiz al-Asad, has frequently asserted and proved its belief in Arab solidarity as the way to unite efforts and employ resources. It is also the way to translate these efforts into serious, worthwhile, and fruitful actions to bolster our nation's militant line and push it forward in the process of confrontation and in facing the campaigns of conspiracy and plots of hegemony.

For the efforts to be worthwhile, it is natural for them to emerge from a real solidarity. For this solidarity to be real, it must be based on a firm ground and must head toward achieving a great fundamental goal and to realize, or embody, a great goal.

Hence, the extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Casablanca, gains its importance. Currently, there are very sensitive circumstances which surround our Arab world and which are represented in a number of points, issues, and problems that preoccupy our Arab man, exhaust and distort his interests, and consume and waste his abilities. Under these circumstances, the importance of the expected Arab summit lies in the nature and size of the achievements it will score and the seriousness and effectiveness of the resolutions it will adopt.

Undoubtedly, the issue of Arab conflict with Israel and its aggressive plots, and facing the conspiracies it plans and executes against our nation, is the most important and urgent subject on the Arab leaders' agenda in their expected summit.

Our Arab people are pinning their hopes to the Arab leaders about this subject. They are doing this on the basis of a deep and realistic feeling and understanding of the dangers facing them and their sacred militant cause. Consequently, they charge the Arab leaders with a precious trust and a great responsibility. They are placing at their hands an issue of destiny. The Arab leaders and their summit will become greater as much as their response becomes greater—a response represented in the seriousness and effectiveness of their resolutions.

The issue is that of a conflict with an enemy whose aggression has no limits and whose plots know no end. We have no other way to face it but to cling to right and insist on regaining it. We have no other way but to confront its conspiracies and their tools—with their different forms and names.

Here, we must remind people that, as proven by events, the Lebanese question was, and remains, one of the bets used by the Zionist enemy to subjugate our Arab people and to weaken them and distort their unified resolve.

This means that the Lebanese question is one of the important, sensitive issues which the Arab leaders must face with responsibility and seriousness in order to reach a unified resolution that will help abolish the Zionist role in the Lebanese arena. This role is being played now by General 'Awn through his domination and his aggressive and destructive practices against the Lebanese Arab people.

The working paper, submitted by Syria to the summit, has emphasized the need to mass the Arab political, military, economic, and cultural resources to face the Israeli enemy and its expansionist plots. The paper also emphasized the need to achieve a comprehensive parity with the Zionist enemy and to give material and moral support and assistance to the heroic, continuous struggle waged by the Arab people in occupied Palestine, the Golan, and southern Lebanon in their confrontation against occupation. Furthermore, the paper stressed the rejection of any settlement with the enemy which does not provide and guarantee the Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories.

What the Syrian Arab working paper represented is really the first fundamental demand of all masses of our Arab people. It is the trust, the task, and the responsibility with which the Arab leaders are charged. It is also what our nation hopes from their expected summit. The Arab masses take guidance in this from President Hafiz al-Asad's saying: For the Arabs to achieve their peace, they must be strong and united in both stance and action.

Aghanistan

Najibullah Urges Contact With Rebel Leaders

BK2305101989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1008 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 23 (AFP)—President Najibullah called on members of the Afghan Parliament Tuesday to open a dialogue at the local level with field commanders of the mujahidin resistance.

Mr. Najibullah, speaking during the closing session of Parliament, urged legislators to examine all avenues leading towards peace with the mujahidin commanders, including the holding of local elections.

"I give you full authority to make contact with the (mujahidin) commanders," said the leader of the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

He said the new "mechanism of peace" which he proposed Saturday—including the holding of a peace conference, the creation of a "leading council" charged with forming a broad-based government, and general elections—should be adapted to the local and provincial levels.

"The (mujahidin) commanders can propose formulas, and we can head towards local elections.... Don't wait until this mechanism takes hold on the national level," Mr. Najibullah said.

The Afghan president rejected criticism by the mujahidin that the forging of agreements on the local level could lead to the division of Afghanistan and a return to feudalism.

"Who is going to reestablish peace? Those who are leading the life of luxury abroad?" he asked. "The war will end when guns are on the ground. Now the guns are in the hands of the commanders."

Observers described Mr. Najibullah's proposals as the latest move in an attempt to curry favour with field commanders among the Afghan resistance.

On Sunday, the Afghan leader unveiled a proposal to 14 major mujahidin commanders which would guarantee them full control in the zones where they operate in exchange for an end to hostilities and cooperation with Kabul.

The proposal was specifically aimed at Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, who controls the strategic Panjsher Valley, and Abdul Haq, commander of mujahidin guerrillas in the Kabul region, observers said.

Mr. Najibullah also announced over the weekend the creation of a 68-member mediatory commission made up of two representatives from each province and large district to open discussions on the local level.

Mr. Najibullah said Tuesday that the commission would not be in conflict with any efforts undertaken by parliamentarians to open a dialogue.

(Resistance sources in Islamabad said Monday that hundreds of mujahidin field commanders, mainly from southern and eastern provinces, had signed a document rejecting the interim resistance government formed in Pakistan in February.)

Najibullah at Opening Session of Loya Jirgah

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[Speech by President Najibullah to the opening session of the Grand Assembly at the Presidential Palace in Kabul on 20 May—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear compatriots, esteemed leaders, esteemed representatives of the brave people of Afghanistan, friends and esteemed guests: It gives me great pleasure, after approxiamtely 1 and ½ years, to once again gather with the representatives of the Afghan people in Kabul, the capital of the beloved and dear country of Afghans in this hall. We talk and discuss the internal and foreign issues of our common Afghan home based on the national and traditional customs of our fathers and forefathers.

We witnessed very great historical events in our country in the period between the two Loya Jirgahs. The Loya Jirgah held in November 1987 gave many great duties to the leadership of Afghanistan in the national and international arena. It approved the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, in which the rights and freedoms of Afghanistan's people and the rules of their economic, social, and political life were set out. It approved the policy of the Republic of Afghanistan, which is based on the continuation of the policy of national reconciliation as the only path to end war and ensure peace in the country. The president of the Republic of Afghanistan was charged by the representatives of the historic Loya Jirgah to implement without deviation the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, which is called the national reconcilation constitution.

And to fulfill my duty to the noble people of Afghanistan, I as the president of the Republic of Afghanistan and a servant of the Afghan people, pledged sincerely before you, the noble representatives of the nation, that I would continue to follow the policy of national reconciliation and would not spare any effort or miss any opportunity and if necessary would even give my life in the cause of serving the people of Afghanistan. [applause]

Now, when once again the ground has been prepared to hold a Loya Jirgah, as an Afghan, as a servant of my country, and being responsible for fulfilling the high state duties and being responsible to you, I want to give you a

brief report on the measures and decisions taken by the state during the past 1 and ½ years in accordance with the decisions of the Loya Jirgah held in November 1987. In accordance with the Constitution, the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan continued the policy of national reconciliation comprehensively and without deviation, as its main task. All possibilities and grounds were prepared so that the opposition side would be able, by forgetting their past indignation, to use those opportunities that are being created as a result of national reconciliation to indicate their readiness for talks and improve their understanding in order to end war.

We joined the voice of the representatives of people and the voice of all the patriotic people of Afghanistan from the worthy tribune of the Loya Jirgah of November 1987 and announced that we were ready, with full flexibility, to make concessions to share power and to form a coalition government with the participation of all opposition parties. We were willing to conduct peaceful talks with the leaders of the formations, commanders, various personalities, and with all those people who consider themselves supporters of a free, independent, nonaligned, united Afghanistan, and an Afghanistan with national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In order to create national unity based on the high interests of the country instead of national disunity that is being inflamed by the enemies of Afghanistan, we have expressed the readiness of the Republic of Afghanistan at a very high level to assess the other sides' views, proposals, and ideas. We did not exclude any political force, any formation, any personalities who can be useful in ensuring peace in the country. We have left the doors of negotiation open to every Afghan person.

After the Loya Jirgah of November 1987, the Republic of Afghanistan not only did not content itself with declaring its policies but, without waiting for the other side, took brave and practical steps in the national and international arena. In order to pave the way and create mutual understanding, thousands of prisoners linked to armed opposition groups and charged with antistate crimes were pardoned. The law on political parties was approved. At present, seven political parties are being formed independently, for the first time in the history of our country in the framework of the policy of national reconciliation and in the national interests of Afghanistan's people.

The local organs of state power were formed by means of free and traditional elections, and the activity of local jirgahs began in the country after a pause of 15 years. Among the 410 seats in parliament, 60 seats have been kept empty for individuals, organizations, and armed opposition groups. Many high state posts such as vice president, deputy prime minister, ministers, heads of districts and subdistricts have been proposed for the opposition side. The monopoly of power by one party and one political organization was removed and an invitation was extended to all opposition groups and parties to take part in forming a coalition government. Legal bases for free and unhindered activities have been created for all citizens of the Republic of Afghanistan, which include various social classes and stratas based on the present condition and demands of Afghan's society. The law of civil servants has gained force. The new principles for land and water relations, which conform to the interest of medium and large landowners, have been prepared. The ground has been paved for the entrepreneurs and businessmen as well as for foreign investment to create industrial and agricultural firms. In 1988, a total of 127 projects were registered in the private sector, with total assets of $11 billion. This figure is 53-fold greater than in 1978.

We have even requested those Afghans who live in Europe and America to invest in their country, and we will give them all guarantees for the protection of their assets. If they cannot come to the country at present, they can invest in their country through their representatives inside the country.

Our domestic and foreign policy takes the national interests of Afghanistan's people into account. Discussion of class and party interests has been avoided. The state has taken into account the needs of all the toilers of Afghanistan without any discrimination and has acted accordingly and will continue to do so. The forms of traditional administration and democratic and national jirgahs were given precedence.

Justice and an equal approach were taken toward national and historical life and toward the rights and duties of the national groups. A number of the country's provinces were declared peace zones; the ground was paved for the formation of local administrative organs based on national characteristics. A law was passed on the rights and concessions of the commanders and ringleaders of the armed opposition groups inside the country, who joined the policy of national reconciliation. This law gives a number of extensive concessions to the commanders inside in the fields of landownership, agriculture, transport, trade, taxation and exemption from its fines, reinstitution of their properties and goods and in banking and agriculture.

Several times, broad local and regional cease-fires were announced, to which, fortunately, a number of armed opposition commanders gave a positive response after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces. A number observed it in practice. We consider their action an important step toward talks and negotiations. Negotiations have begun in practice in some regions. For the first time in the history of our country, the University of Islamic Studies and Research was formed to teach religious lessons. Thank God, the children of our homeland are becoming familiar with the Islamic tenets, with the instructions of the Holy Koran, and with the Islamic tradition of the Prophet Muhammad, and they are being trained in accordance with them. At present, the Islamic Council of the Republic of Afghanistan has been formed in the

framework of the Presidency; the high leadership of the country constantly benefits from its Islamic and religious advice. Another important event, which is the result of 6 years of effort by the Republic of Afghanistan, is the signing of the Geneva accords, which was completed between two jirgahs. The people of Afghanistan pinned many hopes on the implementation of the Geneva accords—you are familiar with its contents and provisions—and had hoped that the war and fratricide in the country will end with these accords' enforcement and with the sincere observation by all the signators. The Afghan people hope peace will be ensured. Our people's hopes had legal and logical foundation. Our people have the right to expect the sincere observation of such an international document because it was signed by two great powers—the Soviet Union and the United States, as guarantors. You can see, however, that despite the signing of the Geneva accords and despite Pakistan's specific commitments to the international community, not only has the interference in our country's affairs not ended, but this interference has been transformed into direct aggression and a war of Pakistan against the Afghan people.

The Republic of Afghanistan leadership pledged in the historic Loya Jirgah in 1366 [20 March 1987-20 March 1988] that the way would be paved for the Soviet contingent's departure from Afghanistan. These forces left our country based on the Geneva accords and in accordance with a timetable. At present, there is not a single Soviet soldier in Afghanistan. Let us come and ask a question of those who considered the existence of the Soviet troops in Afghanistan as the reason for the war: if the existence of the Soviet troops was the obstacle in the path of your agreement with the state and the ending of war, then for what reason are you now fighting against the homeland and people? Those people who until yesterday were calling their war and armed activity a jihad, why do they continue the war against the Afghan Muslims now? Every day the blood of an Afghan or a Muslim is shed. Why should the Afghan children be killed at the hands of other Afghans, who are really their brothers? Why are the hands of one Afghan stained with the blood of other Afghans and Afghan homes destroyed by other Afghans?

In the Geneva accords, Pakistan pledged to respect the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, national unity, security, nonalignment, and the right of Afghanistan to choose its political, economic, cultural, and social system freely, as well as the right to have permanent sovereignty over its natural resources. It will avoid intimidation and the use of arms in whatever form and will not disrupt the political, economic, and social system of the other side.

That country has pledged that its soil will never be used in such a manner as to breach the national sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of the Republic of Afghanistan. It will distance itself from armed interference, destruction, military occupation, and other forms of interference and aggression, whether openly or covertly. Finally, it will avoid any action and efforts, under any pretext, aimed at disrupting the stability of the situation in the Republic of Afghanistan. It will refrain from the direct and indirect encouragement of hostile and separatist activities and any other action carried out to disrupt unity and weaken the political system in the Republic of Afghanistan.

On the basis of the Geneva accords, that country must avoid training, supplying, encouraging, financing, and employing mercenaries inside their country and must avoid dispatching mercenaries to the soil of the Republic of Afghanistan. It must refrain from financing, supplying, and transporting them.

The Afghan people have the right to ask Pakistan which one of that country's official commitments, which emanate from the Geneva accords, has been fulfilled. Our people have the right to ask: Has Pakistan not signed these accords? It is the right of the Afghan people to ask such a question. The Republic of Afghanistan signed the Geneva accords and, based on a feeling of responsibility to its people, it sincerely observed all the provisions related to the Republic of Afghanistan. Therefore, the Republic of Afghanistan has fulfilled its responsibility to the Geneva accords before its people, so that the people of Afghanistan will not question the Republic of Afghanistan one day as to why it has not observed these accords. Today the military men in Pakistan are facing such a question in the national and international arenas.

Also, conditions are favorable for the return of emigrants to the country. On the basis of the Geneva accords, the Republic of Afghanistan has taken a number of measures for the return of the emigrants, for their resettlement and for their financial assistance, and for ensuring their standards of living. However, in return, the warmongering elements and their patrons built fences around the camps and created obstacles to the emigrants' return. Our emigrant compatriots still live an abject life and Pakistan has not prepared any facilities—which were considered in the Geneva accords—for the voluntary return of the emigrants. On the contrary, the leaders of the extremist forces have, in the name of Afghanistan's refugees, begged from the world's countries and at the cost of the pride of the brave children of Mir Ways Khan, Great Ahmad Shah, Abu Muslim Khorasani, Taher Funanji, Pir-e Roshan, Qazi Mohammad, Ayub Khan, Ghazni Mohammad, Osman Khan Achakzay, Mehr Pasha Khan Khodamani, Mir Masjedi Khan Kohestani, Sardar Mohammad 'Azim Beg Sepay, Nayeb Aminollah Khan Logari, Qazi Amanollah Khan, 'Abolrahman Khan Lodin, 'Osman Khan Parwani, and other brave forefathers of Afghanistan, and have included their country's life and fate in the separatist deals. They take the children of the refugees from the camps by force and send them to Afghanistan for the fracticidal war.

Esteemed members of the Loya Jirgah: The Republic of Afghanistan, fully understanding national and historic needs, has not ignored for even one second the continuation of the policy of national reconciliation and has offered

always, unilaterally, flexible and concessional proposals, despite the fact that the opposition has not shown any rationality or responsibility in view of the proposals and guarantees of the Loya Jirgah on Qaws 1366 [corresponding to 22 November to 21 December 1987].

The Republic of Afghanistan proposed at the joint session of the Milli Shura on 8 Aqrab 1367 [corresponding to 30 October 1988] that an international conference should be held on Afghanistan and to approve the permanent traditional neutrality of Afghanistan. This conference should also discuss the international aid program for the country's economic and social development and a mechanism to distribute this assistance and to prepare necessary legal guarantees for the defense of human rights and the right to extensive political freedom.

The Republic of Afghanistan proposed the issue of the demilitarization of Afghanistan and the collection of the weapons that have been stored in the country during the years of war and handing them over to the countries that produced them. Implementation of this issue will enable the people of Afghanistan to remedy the pains resulting from the 10 years of war and to prevent regional and national conflicts in the future.

The aim of the Republic of Afghanistan to achieve the demilitarization of Afghanistan is for all sides involved in the war to refrain from confrontation and pave the way to free elections based on our national culture and customs, in which political force and armed intimidation have no place. You, the representatives of Afghanistan's people, see that, despite this clear proposal by the Republic of Afghanistan which has national, regional, and international importance, none of the armed opposition have yet positively responded. Afghanistan's permananent neutrality and its demilitarization means that the Republic of Afghanistan will have good relations with all world countries and will reserve for itself the right to be a united country with national sovereignty and territorial integrity. These proposals also mean that the Republic of Afghanistan will not take anyone's side in regional and international conflicts. It will remain as an independent, neutral, nonaligned country and, from the military and political view, an unattached country; it will carry on with its social and economic development.

The other side's silence with regard these proposals shows clearly that, in addition to considering the interest and greed of their limited groups and classes, they also try to make Afghanistan dependent on the military and political viewpoint of those countries that support them. The annexation of Afghanistan to Pakistan in the guise of a confederation means just this.

On the basis of proposals from the Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations, and its many appeals to that organization, and in accordance with a request to assess Pakistan's aggression, the 43d UN General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution on Afghanistan and asked the signatories of the Geneva accords to observe their commitments on Afghanistan. During the last session of the Security Council, which was held at the request of Afghanistan, the intention and will of the world community became clear: to seek a political and peaceful solution and full implementation of the Geneva accords.

Esteemed members of the Loya Jirgah: A year has now passed since the start of the Soviet forces' withdrawal, and it is 3 months since they completed their withdrawal from Afghanistan. Our country's Armed Forces have courageously defended Jalalabad, Khowst, Gardeyz, Qandahar, Herat, and the highways and strategic areas of the country since the withdrawal of the Soviet units. [applause] This is vivid proof of the courage of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, its protectors.

Despite the signing of the Geneva agreements, the resolution of the UN General Assembly 43d session, and the immediate and urgent need of the people of Afghanistan for an end to the current war and for the insurance of peace, not only have aggression and interference against the Republic of Afghanistan not ceased, but they have also intensified and brought about the danger of a regional conflict. It is not just the resolution of the Afghan problem that is at issue now; this problem has expanded and the prevention of an armed conflict between Afghanistan and Pakistan is at issue. In the present phase of the country, where foreign intervention is an active and persistent factor, this danger has become palpable—that is, the danger that the internal conflict in the Republic of Afghanistan will turn into a war between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This situation has been created by the enemies of the people of Afghanistan, using U.S. and Saudi arms, and is directed and commanded by Pakistani generals. Therefore the Republic of Afghanistan reserves the right to itself to demand at the appropriate time that Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States, as the instigaters of the undeclared war and aggressors against the people of Afghanistan, pay reparations for all the destruction caused by the war to the people of Afghanistan. [applause] The leaders of those countries must respond to those mothers, widows, and children who have lost their relations in the war that they have fueled.

The people of Afghanistan expected that after the withdrawal of the Soviet units—which our opponents also considered the only cause of war and conducted a jihad against them under this pretext; and Pakistan also considered the withdrawal of the Soviet Union units the main requisite for stability and security—the situation in the country would calm down and armed conflict would cease. I assert that the people were correct and justified to expect this, because there is no longer any reason to continue the war.

The plans to capture Afghan cities were made by Pakistani militarists with the supervision of U.S. advisors. And the leaders of the groups based in Pakistan, who are

dead and soulless instruments in the hands of Pakistanis and other foreigners, envisaged a military occupation of Afghanistan, with much murder and destruction.

There is irrefutable evidence and documentation, and the recent series of incidents also show, that the armed extremists and the countries which support them intend to attack Afghan territory and to threaten our territorial integrity, national sovereignty, and the independence of united Afghanistan.

On the eve of the return of the Soviet contingents, the opposition extremists received very modern weapons and equipment and began infiltrating the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan with the direct support of the Pakistani military. They attack the residents of cities, economic establishments, schools, highways, airports, and sacred and public places, and plunder them.

Unfortunately, Pakistan still plays the shameful role that was played by General Ziaul Haq. Our dear compatriots recall that Ziaul Haq claimed that the Afghan opposition did not exist in Afghanistan and that Pakistan did not interfere in Afghanistan's internal affairs. Today, too, the voice and sympathy of Islamabad is again being heard, saying that Pakistan is in favor of a speedy and peaceful solution to the Afghanistan situation.

I want to tell the authorities of that country: Gentlemen, come to your senses. Is Mrs Benazir Bhutto's government aware of the instructions the leaders of armed groups outside Afghanistan take from their patrons, that is, the intelligence service of Pakistan? If she is not aware, I will tell her. The instructions are as follows: To increase to a maximum the firing of missiles on the major cities of Afghanistan; destroy airports; block the supply routes for foodstuffs to the main cities and the capital of the country; create a shortage of foodstuffs. By such methods, it is hoped that the extremists will be successful in overthrowing the legal government of Afghanistan.

Everyone knows that so far Islamabad and the government formed in Islamabad have not presented even one proposal for a peaceful solution. I repeat, not one proposal has been discussed. However, the words about efforts toward achieving peace come from Islamabad and others. It is obvious that the meaning of the hue and cry by the Pakistan military for peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan is to kill even the last Afghan with Afghan hands. They want to make Afghanistan a graveyard. It is natural for a graveyard to be silent. The people of Afghanistan do not want a deathly silence in their country.

The military authorities of Pakistan have resorted to increasing its rearming of the extremists, and they also bring their military forces closer to Afghan borders. At present, Pakistan's military divisions and militias and Saudi mercenaries take part in the attacks against Jalalabad. They are being supported and assisted by Pakistan's 11th and 18th divisions. Pakistani helicopters fly over the Republic of Afghanistan and carry out the delivery of combat supply equipment and Pakistani and Saudi advisers. They want to impose a government on Afghanistan's people that they favor, which they formed in Pakistan by military means and unilaterally, and to become successful in the implementation of plans to create a great Pakistan. The Pakistani military wants to repeat in Afghanistan the British colonialist history of 150 years ago and to bring to the throne a comtemporary Shah Shojas [19th-century king] in our honorable country.

If Pakistan's 11th and 18th divisions, which take part in the attack on Jalalabad and if the armored and other units of Pakistan's forces resort openly to attack, the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, in defense of its independent and territorial integrity and by using its natural and legal right... I repeat: If Pakistan's 11th and 18th divisions, which take part in the attacks against Jalalabad, and if the armored and other units of Pakistan's Army resort openly to further attacks, the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, in defense of its independent and territorial integrity, and by using its natural and legal right, will inflict crushing blows with its missiles on the bases of the armed extremist forces in Pakistan. [applause]

There should be no doubt in this respect with the aggressors that our policy is the policy of peace, and we attempt to ensure that the expansion and intensification of war does not arise from our side. But if the people of Afghanistan need a strong, legitimate defense, we will take full action.

The continuation of Pakistan's aggression, along with the direct involvement of its armed forces in combat operations in Afghanistan, will compel the State of Afghanistan to declare a general mobilization in the country. It has to be clear to everyone that the choice of general mobilization is not our choice, and we do our utmost so that it does not reach such a serious state of affairs.

Psychological warfare, subversion, economic sabotage, blockade of communication lines, attacks on cities, the military occupation of areas evacuated by the state, the looting of public property, and the creation of an atmosphere of fear with random rocket attacks led to the worsening of the military and political situation. You know that, in the wake of the Soviet Union's military units withdrawal, the mass media of the West expanded their hostile propaganda against the national sovereignty of Afghanistan.

The extremists spread the idea of very quickly capturing cities and city centers, and they rejected political talks and cooperation with the Republic of Afghanistan. We have taken all due acts, and continue to take them in order that Afghans reach a full national agreement in their united home, the Republic of Afghanistan, and resolve all problems, not through military pressure,

killing, bloodshed, and ultimatums but through meetings, talks, and understanding. But in response, we are confronted with threats, pressure, bloodshed, the blockage of highways, the imposition of famine, and the lack of staple food. Armed extremists speak in response to every proposal of the Republic of Afghanistan with the language of guns, explosions, murder, looting, and force.

Several times we declared that we are ready for talks with the leaders of the seven-party alliance in any party of the world. And you, esteemed representatives, know that the State of the Republic of Afghanistan proposed on the birthday of Prophet Mohammad—peace be upon him—that we talk about the cessation of war. But you noticed how irresponsibly this humanitarian proposal was negatively answered. It was a call for the cessation of war and the insurance of peace. Several times, they pronounced that they would continue the war to the last Afghan. This type of statement has many times been spelled out by the enemies of the people of Afghanistan, and now the extremists want to materialize the wishes of the Pakistanis, Americans, and Saudis in the country.

The Republic of Afghanistan made neutral and resolute decisions based on deep analysis of the situation, which were important in the wake of the withdrawal of the limited contingents in order to prevent conspiracies, plots, and predatory acts on the highways in this country's present time of need. The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, in line with the pledge it gave in the 1987 Loya Jirgah session before the representatives of the people of Afghanistan, declared a state of emergency in keeping with Article 143 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan on 19 February 1989. This was done to help safeguard national independence and territorial integrity, protect the lives of millions of people and also national property, to safeguard the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, to ensure internal security, to protect and secure national reconciliation, and to ensure law and order in society. The leadership also formed the state of emergency executive leading organ, the High Council.

The passage of time has shown as legitimate and timely the anticipation by the Republic of Afghanistan of the planned broad aggression by the extremist forces and the Pakistani military against the Republic of Afghanistan and the further attacks on our compatriots, the extensive attacks on Jalalabad and Khost, the threat of war in Qandahar, the blockage of supply routes to and the shelling of cities and residential areas.

All these things have unveiled the aggressive plans of the Pakistani military, which are being carried out by the extremists. During the period when the state of emergency was in force in the country, the lives of thousands of people remained safe. Hundreds of conspiracies and plots against the national sovereignty and internal security of the Republic of Afghanistan were discovered and foiled. Almost every day a large quantity of weapons, explosives, missiles, mines, and bombs, which would have caused hundreds of human beings in this land to die and would have transformed our country into a wasteland, were discovered.

The threatening and sinister plans of the extremists were foiled one after another in the cities and provinces of the country. Finally, the attacks of the extremists, of Pakistani soldiers and militias, and of Saudi mercenaries were foiled, although they had fixed a time limit of 72 hours to capture Jalalabad. However, as a result of the extraordinary measures and high morale of the defenders of Nangarhar and of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, our enemies were unable to implement their plans against our people and ancient land. [applause]

The brave and proud Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, in whose veins runs the blood of our zealous fathers and forefathers, defended with heroism the eastern gate of our country and revived once again the historic epics of the Afghan wars against the British. The hero defenders of Jalalabad have proved that the heroic and combatant Afghans have the ability to defend their fatherland and will continue to have it. [applause]

At present, the people of the world and even those circles who were predicting the immediate fall of our cities and regime have understood to a greater extent the facts and ability and intention of the Republic of Afghanistan in defense of the homeland. Even a number of the western circles, while revealing the aggressive plans for Jalalabad—designed under the auspices of U.S. representatives in Pakistan and by the Pakistani military—consider the heroic defense by the Armed Forces of their positions in various provinces as indicative of the strength of the regime of the Republic of Afghanistan and confess to the reality and power of the peaceful and humane policy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Dear representatives of the people of Afghanistan, the state of emergency does not mean a deviation from or abandonment of national reconciliation. On the contrary, it guarantees the safeguarding of this policy against the provocation and destruction of the extremists and Pakistani military and prevents conspiracies and sabotage against the policy of national reconciliation. It is for this reason that the present Loya Jirgah has been invited to approve the policy of the leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan on the continuation of the state of emergency, on the consolidation and strengthening of our armed forces, on the mobilization of the people in the defense of homeland, territorial integrity, independence, and on the lives of the defenseless people, so as to attract the assistance and help of the international friends of Afghanistan's people.

History has proven that the Loya Jirgahs have always determined many significant issues in connection with the fate of our country in the national and international arena and have brightened the future progress of the

country. The Loya Jirgahs held in Shar-e Safa, Sheri Sorkh, Ghazni, Jalalabad, Paghman, and Kabul at various times are a manifestation of the truth that the people of Afghanistan attach great importance to assemblies and to grand assemblies and respect them. Those grand assemblies have made very valuable decisions about the fate of the country, independence, territorial integrity, neutrality, nonalignment, and about friendship with neighboring and other countries.

The Republic of Afghanistan is ready to convene a broad jirgah with the participation of representatives of all the armed opposition forces on the soil of free and independent Afghanistan from where the jubilant voices of our forefathers' historic jirgahs can be heard.

Esteemed representatives of the Grand Assembly jirgah and people of Afghanistan: I consider it my national and historic mission to declare as an Afghan and your servent that the leaders of the armed opposition extremists, by the convening a shura under the conditions of subservience to foreigners and internment, are intending to abuse Afghanistan's national honor and to import into Afghanistan's territory a Pakistani-made government. The leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan], its political allies, all Afghan patriots, and the Republic's heroic Armed Forces consider it their national mission to call upon the compatriots to raise the voice of protest and loathing louder against the extremists and those who steal the bread and land of the people of Afghanistan; to condemn the extremists who do not respond positively to national interests and national reconciliation; and to the demand of millions of people of the country, who sharpen their teeth for fratricide under the order of foreigners, to unite in the face of Pakistan's aggression as your gallant ancestors did.

The Republic of Afghanistan, the country's Armed Forces, and all faithful people of Afghanistan should march to the trenches in defense of the country as their legitimate right to oppose aggression from abroad, examples of which can be seen right now; to offer a resolute and brave defense of national traditions of the independence, of territorial integrity, of national sovereignty, and of customs and honors by relying on God and the people of Afghanistan. [applause]

The state is ready, on the basis of previous proposals, to declare a cease-fire and a truce providing the opposite side also observe them: and to prepare the ground for direct understanding and negotiation on ending fratricide and the restoration of peace under the following mechanism: All forces interested in peace will be invited to declare a cease-fire on a predetermined date. Direct dialogue and negotiations should begin concurrently with the complete observance of this cease-fire. An international conference should be convened to implement the Geneva accords and approve Afghanistan's neutrality and demilitarization. A peace council should be convened to form a leadership council inside the country. This leadership council should form a broad-based government, which will be tasked with supervising the cease-fire, drafting a new constitution, convening Afghanistan's Loya Jirgah to ratify this constitution, and holding parliamentary elections. After these elections, the future government would be formed in line with the new constitution. [applause]

I propose that an arbitration commission be chosen from the present Loya Jirgah for talks with representativs of the opposition in Pakistan, Iran, and Europe, with former King Mohammad Zahir Shah and his supporters, and, in the first place, with the internal commanders and with the heads of tribes who have so far been in opposition to the Republic of Afghanistan and who now want an end to combat operations against the state and who wish to promote contacts and negotiations for the normalization of the situation in their areas and in the country. We are ready to resolve our country's problems, in line with the tenets and principles of the holy religion of Islam and the jirgah traditions of the people of Afghanistan, without interference from foreigners. Similarly, we are ready to convene an international conference for the peaceful resolution of the aggression against Afghanistan, with the participation of the Soviet Union, the United States, the PRC, Iran, and India under the auspices of the United Nations. This is another proposal.

Those are our views and proposals on the resolution of the situation in Afghanistan.

We are awaiting the proposals and views of the other sides so as to evaluate them immediately and to show the world the ability of brave Afghans and of dear Afghanistan to search for a solution. The Republic of Afghanistan will make further efforts to talk and negotiate with the opposition to find a solution to bring peace and end war. It will not rule out any formations, political forces, armed groups, parties, organizations, or even individuals.

To begin with, the state will continue to conduct talks and have contacts with the commanders of the armed groups inside the country. As the experiences of the last 10 years have shown, the commanders inside are the only force to have carried the burden of war on their shoulders. Fortunately, a large number of commanders inside the country have a sense of their responsiblity to bring peace after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces and do not want to harm their compatriots at a time when the Soviet forces have been withdrawn from the country. There are living examples and evidence that a number of commanders and their armed men refused to go to Jalalabad and considered the war in Jalalabad as aggression against the country by foreigners.

I want to draw to the attention of those commanders inside who are watching what is happening that in the present conditions, when your country faces aggression from Pakistan, your silence in real terms leaves the hands of the aggressors free in the affairs of Afghanistan, and this action will damage the national honor of

Afghans. The duty of a true Afghan is to defend the interests of the country against foreign aggression and interference, to take part in foiling the aggression by Pakistan, and to help create reconciliation among the Afghans involved in the war.

The Republic of Afghanistan is ready to send free assistance, wheat, and other commodities needed by the people, in understanding with the aforementioned commanders, to their relevant regions. The territorial boundaries of those commanders and leaders of the groups who join the national reconcilation policy have not been circumscribed. The state helps and assists them in creating farms and in maintaining livestock. In their own regions, they can appoint a governor, commanders, prosecutors, and civil servants from among their own people. The state will determine their financial share in the total budget of the country and will strive to implement the social and economic plans of the regions.

We call on the commanders of the Armed Forces in the country's regions and localities to take the security of their regions into their own hands with their own weapons and to cooperate with the state in the dispatch of primary goods to those regions.

The State of the Republic of Afghanistan at this worthy jirgah invites all the armed opposition forces to play their part as Afghans who can still show wisdom and reason in resolving issues related to the fate of the country, in safeguarding a nonaligned, independent, free, and united Afghanistan, and in refusing to become a tool in the hands of the foreigners for the destruction and degradation of Afghanistan.

We, the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, are in favor of continuing the peaceful foreign policy approved by the Loya Jirgah in November 1987. In its diplomatic and international relations, the state pursues the gains of national reconciliation, the interests of the people of Afghanistan, and the principles of equal rights, freedom, and positive neutrality.

I announce once again from this tribune that we are in favor of permanent neutrality and the demilitarization of Afghanistan, so as to begin to heal the wounds of war in postwar conditions and to ensure our country's social and economic development. Our ties with all world countries will be ensured only in Afghanistan's national interest.

We ask the countries of the world to condemn interference and aggression in the affairs of our country, from wherever it might come, and to assist our country in its social and economic development. We do not want to have any country as an enemy. We expect only the same from the world's countries and from our neighbors. The countries neighboring Afghanistan, and in particular the people and masses of Pakistan, whose Islamic and cultural ties draw our countries closer together, will be able to play an important role in ensuring peace in Afghanistan. Unfortunately, as a result of the policy of the military and the extremists, aggression and interference is being carried out against Afghanistan mainly from the soil of Pakistan.

The Republic of Afghanistan turns to the people of Pakistan and asks them to prevent the provocation of a fratricidal war in Afghanistan by using their influence over those military forces that are still casting a shadow over the policies of that country, not to allow their Afghan neighbors, with whom they have deep friendship, trade ties, and joint cultural relations, to become victims of the implementation of the military's demands. We are sure that the people of Pakistan can prevent this threat to the region by applying pressure on the Pakistani military.

We ask the Pakistani parliament to use its resources to divert the policy of the Pakistani military toward ensuring peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan and the implementation of the Geneva accords by Pakistan. The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Afghanistan have historical and traditional ties, and they are jointly struggling to ensure peace and to foil the influence of the aggressors. I hope that the fraternal people of Iran will support the righteous struggle of the people of Afghanistan against the aggressive policy of Washington. Our relations with India are based on ancient history, good-neighborliness, and mutual friendship. We thank the friendly country of India for economic assistance and help. India cannot remain indifferent to the situation created around the Republic of Afghanistan. Anti-Indian intentions also lie behind the expansionist plans and provocations of Pakistan.

We want expanded relations on the basis of equal rights with all Islamic countries, all neighbors, the Nonaligned Movement, and the states of the world. The Nonaligned Movement, whose great role is felt on the international scene, can play an active role in the implementation of the Geneva accords by the signatories, in the enforcement of the resolution of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly, in calling for a cease-fire and monitoring it, in the formation of a broad-based government, and in ensuring understanding and negotiations among Afghans.

The Soviet Union, to the north of our country, as a great world power has had good relations with the Republic of Afghanistan for 7 decades. Now our countries' common border has become a border of peace and friendship. The Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union once again have proved to the world their friendly and peace-loving position by the fulfillment of their undertakings enshrined in the Geneva accords.

The people of Afghanistan strongly need the assistance of the Soviet Union, especially now that our country is once again faced with the aggression of the extremists and Pakistani militarists. We consider it our right to count on the all-around assistance of the Soviet Union as a neighbor of this great international country.

History determined that the powerful Soviet state would be located along the northern border of Afghanistan. Our fathers and forefathers chose and approved friendship, mutual relations, neighborliness, and peaceful coexistence among our peoples and countries through national assemblies and gatherings, and they left it as a great heritage.

I would like to clearly state to you representatives of the Afghan people that we as the sons of our people and country follow the path of our fathers and forefathers in friendship with the people of the Soviet Union and in the strengthening of relations between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, taking into account our national interests. [applause]

The treaty of friendship and good-neighborliness between the countries and peoples of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, and those countries' undertakings to each other, are still viable. We reserve the right to secure any type of Soviet assistance and help in line with the national interests of Afghans and with the existence of an independent, united Afghanistan—an Afghanistan enjoying national independence and territorial integrity.

Geographical destiny has placed Afghanistan in close proximity to a country that is a great power in Asia and the world. Deep historic and cultural relations have come into existence and have developed between our countries.

The Republic of Afghanistan has always wanted to have friendly and normal relations with the PRC on the basis of good-neighborliness and peaceful coexistence. We are confident that recent progress in the Afghan question and positive changes in the international situation will prepare a good opportunity for the removal of any kind of problem in the development of relations between the two countries. The people of Afghanistan follow with interest those political and economic changes taking place in the neighboring country, the PRC, by its people and leadership, and wish for success of these efforts in the interest of the people of China and the development of fruitful cooperation between the two countries.

Members of the Loya Jirgah and all people of Afghanistan clearly see that instruments of death, explosives, ground-to-ground rockets, ground-to-air rockets, with which our country's people—children, youth, and the elderly—are martyred, are being sent to our country from the United States, from beyond the seas. We ask the people of the United States to bring pressure to bear on their country's government, in keeping with their humanism, and to prevent the dispatch of lethal weapons to Afghanistan. Afghanistan does not need hot steel, smoke, and gunpowder. The people of Afghanistan need staple foodstuffs, clothes, and medicine.

We thank the UN secretary general for leading the Geneva talks and his untiring efforts there. Pakistan does not observe the Geneva accords, despite the fact it signed them in the presence of the UN secretary general and despite the guarantees of the Soviet Union and the United States, which validated the legal and executive power of the accords. Pakistan's violation and disregard of such an international document deals a strong blow at the authority of the United Nations.

It will also damage the international prestige of that organization. The world community is able to and should play an effective role in ensuring peace and in the reconstruction of the destroyed economy of the Republic of Afghanistan, in conditions when all the pretexts for the continuation of war in Afghanistan have been removed.

Dear compatriots, esteemed representatives, war and aggression against our country and nation has aroused the national feelings of all Afghans. The people of our country work and struggle with enthusiasm and with a burning love for their country, for the sake of homeland, for the freedom of our suffering country, and for national reconciliation and our future fate.

Allow me to express from this rostrum my own and the Afghan leadership's profound appreciation for the people's work and struggle, and for the support expressed for the national reconciliation policy.

I have full confidence that the people of Afghanistan will become successful in their difficult but noble and just struggle. The bright sources of these victories are hidden in the unshakable will of the Afghan people to ensure nationwide peace and national unity.

Holding a high post in the country's leadership, I renew my commitments once again to the brave Afghan people at this current difficult stage. I will use all my power, energy, ability, and talent to serve the people of Afghanistan. [applause] I consider it a responsibility of my duty and a national debt not to spare myself from any type of work and struggle in the implementation of the national unity and the policy of national reconciliation, and I will continue the national reconciliation policy firmly and bravely in the future too in order to ensure peace in the land of the Afghans. [applause]

I wish for success from Almighty God and request the cooperation from the noble people of Afghanistan in implementing the popular goals of this brave nation. [applause]

The present Loya Jirgah, which has been held at a sensitive and destiny-making period, will be registered in the history of our homeland with bright and clear lines. Let the name of the current Loya Jirgah remain parallel to national reconciliation, national unity, peace, and tranquillity. Success comes from God. [applause]

Mujahidin in Iran Not To Hold Talks in Moscow

LD2305004489 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2251 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 22 (TANJUG)—The alliance of Afghan mujahidin based in Iran this evening announced it does not intend to send a delegation to Moscow for talks.

Mujahidin spokesman 'Ali Jan Zahedi told foreign journalists in Tehran that the eight-member alliance was invited by First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov.

Zahedi said that the mujahidin organizations based in Iran are against any kind of participation of representatives of the Kabul regime in Afghanistan's future government.

Negotiations between the Soviet Union and the mujahidin based in Iran began six months ago, when Vorontsov visited Tehran. Vorontsov also met with representatives of the coalition of Afghan mujahidin of Pakistan in Saudi Arabia.

Mujahidin Faction To Fight Until Regime Ends

BK2005025089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The leader of the Iran-based 8 party alliance of the Afghan mujahidin, Karim Khalili, has said that they will continue their fight until the Kabul regime is ended. Talking to newsmen in Peshawar, he said no ideological difference exists between the Afghans based in Peshawar and Tehran, because both are struggling for the establishment of an Islamic system in Afghanistan. He said differences exist between the two groups on the future government in Afghanistan, but these differences will be settled after the talks between the two groups.

Mujahidin Coalitions Hold Talks inb Peshawar

LD2205184689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Yesterday the delegation dispatched by the eight-party Afghan mujahidin coalition to Peshawar in Pakistan conferred with a select team of representatives of the seven-party Afghan mujahidin coalition based in Pakistan.

The eight-party delegation in the negotiations was headed by Muhammad Karim Khalili, while the seven-party coalition's delegation was headed by Burhanudin Rabbani. The issues discussed included ways of consolidating unity among Afghan mujahidin and the way in which the eight-party coalition will participate in the future government of Afghanistan.

Wakil, Indian Counterpart Hold Discussions

LD2205184989 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Today 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, met with Narasimha Rao, minister of external affairs of India, on his way back home. 'Abdul Samad Azhar, the Republic of Afghanistan's ambassador and representative extraordinary in India, also took part in the meeting. Both sides conducted talks on the outcomes of the Nonaligned Movement foreign ministers session in Harare. They deemed it a great event in the life of the Nonaligned Movement.

Both sides expressed pleasure at the approved resolution on Afghanistan and assessed it as an important step for finding a political resolution to the problem in Afghanistan. Similarly, 'Abdul Wakil, the minister of foreign affairs, informed the Indian side on the Grand Assembly and on esteemed President Najibullah's speech to the Loya Jirgah on 20 May.

KHAD Chief Killed in Qandahar 20 May

LD2205184189 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] Islamabad, May 22, IRNA—The chief of the Kabul regime's notorious secret police (KHAD) in Qandahar Province, Latif Aryan together with 4 of his agents was killed when mujahidin attacked his jeep near the Eidgah in Qandahar city on May 20.

According to the mujahidin souces, the attack also destroyed a tank with 8 marxist personnel on board.

Mujahidin also rocketed Qandahar Airport the same day killing 32 soldiers and wounding scores of others, and destroying a jet bomber, a tank, two vehicles and a fuelling station.

'Opposition Groups' Attack Jalalabad

LD2305072989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 22, BAKHTAR—Contingents and detachments of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] in their mopping up operations carried out in the north-western direction of Jalalabad City cleared the area from the armed opposition groups during the past 24 hours.

During the operations 48 extremists were killed and 68 others wounded. An authorised military source said that the joint forces of the enemy, supported with heavy artillery fires of the 11th and 18th Pakistani divisions, attacked residential areas of the Jalalabad City. Four civilians and a serviceman were killed and 6 others wounded. Three residential houses were demolished during the attacks.

Attacks of the enemy on the Khowst grand district were halted, and heavy blows inflicted on the enemy. Eighty-seven extremists were killed and scores of them wounded.

Two extremists were captured by the armed forces in the Qonduz Province. Situations in the rest provinces of the RA were reported as normal.

India

Spokesman Denies 'Blockage' of Goods to Nepal

BK2205153489 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 22 May 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement on Nepal"]

[Text] As I indicated last week, there is a steady flow of goods exported from India and also goods in transit through India from third countries. As indicated in the list handed over to you the quality and nature of goods exported on 2 days would show quite clearly that the allegation of a so-called blockage is totally incorrect. As will be seen, essential items such as coal, salt, potatoes, cement, bicycles, medicines, and certain chemicals have been entering Nepal from India in sufficient quantities and likewise goods from third countries, including chemicals, steel wire, and high speed diesel, have also gone to Nepal. This shows that India even after the lapse of trade and transit treaty continues to fulfill its obligations as far as Nepalese transit rights through India are concerned. In fact, India continues to grant Nepal transit rights which are far more than strictly required under the international law.

Spokesman Issues Statement on Foreign Affairs

BK2305121389 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0905 GMT 23 May 89

["Official Spokesman's Statement"—date not given]

[Text]

Sri Lanka

In reply to questions about press reports about a statement made by Anton Balasingham of LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] criticising IPKF's [Indian Peacekeeping Force] role in Sri Lanka, spokesman said that these were intimidatory tactics adopted by LTTE. It was characteristic of LTTE to profess to talk of peace while its actions contradicted it. If they are talking of peace, they should indulge in peace and not war-like activities. IPKF is not an "occupation" army. Everybody knows under what circumstances IPKF went to Sri Lanka. Whatever Balasingham is saying is falsification of facts. IPKF went to Sri Lanka as a result of an agreement between two countries. If IPKF is to be pulled out, it is to be negotiated and discussed by two countries.

Afghanistan

In reply to a question about press reports datelined Islamabad: "India to send troops to Afghanistan, Afghan rebel agency claims," spokesman said that we have, on several occasions in past, emphatically denied that Indian troops have been sent to Afghanistan. We have also denied that there has been any military cooperation between two countries. We emphasise that stories that have appeared from Islamabad are based on some imaginary visions and not on facts. We have also seen reports of several thousand Pakistani troops on Afghan border.

USA

In reply to a question about U.S troops in Panama, spokesman said that we have no comments on Americans sending troops to Panama.

Sino-Soviet Summit

In reply to a question about Sino-Soviet summit being held in Beijing, spokesman said that we consider event is important on its own, even though it is essentially a bilateral matter. Since expectation is that it will contribute to international peace and security and to resolution of problems in trouble spots around globe, we welcome it. Since both summiteers, Soviet Union and China, have said that their current meeting is not going to affect relations of either country with third countries, we feel that positive results may emerge from this summit. We being friends of both countries, welcome this meeting because it will result in lessening of tension between summiteers bilaterally and universally.

USSR's Rogachev To Brief Gandhi on Summit

BK2105084889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0841 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] New Delhi, May 21 (AFP)—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev will arrive here this week to brief Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on the just-concluded Sino-Soviet summit in Beijing, newspapers said here Sunday.

There was no immediate offical confirmation from foreign ministry officials, but the pro-government NATIONAL HERALD said Mr Rogachev would arrive here in the next couple of days as a special envoy of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr Rogachev took part in talks between Mr Gorbachev and Chinese leaders at last week's summit, which ended a 30-year rift in Sino-Soviet relations.

India has officially welcomed the summit as conducive to easing regional tensions, but many Indian foreign policy analysts have publicly expressed qualms that the thaw could weaken India's ties and clout with Moscow.

'Hardcore Terrorist,' Others Killed in Punjab

BK2305092089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] In Punjab, a hardcore terrorist Darshan Singh was killed in an encounter with the security forces in the Mand area of Kapurthala District early this morning. One Chinese assault rifle, two magazines, 50 rounds of ammunition, and a capsule containing poison were recovered from his possession. Darshan Singh, involved in a number of killings, carried a reward of 20,000 rupees.

Meanwhile, terrorists shot dead three persons and seriously injured another in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, a shopkeeper was gunned down in Sultanpur area of Amritsar city last night. Another person was shot dead in Hasapur village of Sangrur District. In Jullundur District, terrorists fired at a van in Noor Mahal area killing a woman occupant and seriously injuring another.

Factory Blast Kills 8 Schoolboys in Rajasthan

BK2305075489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] In Rajasthan, eight boys were killed [and] about 40 injured in an explosion, which rocked a building in Bahari village in Bharatpur District yesterday. The building houses a fire arms factory and a school. Reports say the students were in the school, when some explosive material in the factory caught fire. Two boys died on the spot, while others died in a hospital in Bharatpur.

Iran

Khomeyni Undergoes Successful Operation

LD2305103989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 89

[From the news headlines]

[Text] Imam Khomeyni's bureau announced: Thanks to Almighty God's succor and mercy, an operation on Imam Khomeyni, performed this morning because of bleeding in his digestive system, was successful. His eminence's condition is fully satisfactory, thanks be to God.

'Satisfactory' After Surgery

LD2305105889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Imam Khomeyni's office, announced in a statement issued today: Thanks to Almighty God's succor and mercy, the operation on His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, which was performed this morning because of bleeding in the digestive system, was concluded successfully and his holiness' condition is fully satisfactory. The text of the statement is as follows:

In His exalted name. It is hereby brought to the attention of the entire dear nation that thanks to Almighty God's succor and with blessings of the lord of the era, may our souls be sacrificed for him, the operation on His Holiness Imam Khomeyni, may his lofty shadow extend, performed in order to control bleeding in his digestive system, was concluded successfully this morning and, thanks be to God, his holiness' condition is fully satisfactory. Further information on the recovery of his holiness will be brought to the attention of the dear nation later.

[Signed] Imam Khomeyni's Office

[Date] 23 May 89

Commentary on Vorontsov's Afghanistan Policy

LD2205134189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1055 GMT 22 May 89

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to you, dear listeners. I draw your attention to today's first political commentary on the Soviet first deputy foreign minister's visit, and future relations between the two countries.

Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister and that country's ambassador to Kabul ended his 4-day visit in Iran yesterday and departed for his country. In the course of his visit, on the eve of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's significant trip to Moscow, Vorontsov held talks with our country's officials on the future of the two countries' relations, and also on the issue of Afghanistan. It is expected that with respect to the two countries' viewpoints on Hashemi-Rafsanjani's highly significant trip to the Soviet Union, cooperation between the two neighboring countries of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and the Soviet Union will be expanded to a greater extent in all fields, particularly in the economic sphere. Political observers consider the Tehran-Moscow negotiations on political and international issues which are being held within the framework of goodneighborliness and the expansion of bilateral cooperation to be of great importance. In this respect, the issue of Afghanistan—as one of the principal axes in the negotiations between the Soviet first deputy foreign minister and President Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati—is worth consideration and evaluation. In the wake of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the IRI has constantly warned about attempts being made by the other powers maneuvering in that country and called for the noninterference of foreign forces' presence in Afghanistan. In this respect, it is the Muslim people of Afghanistan who should manage their country's affairs.

In the course of his visit in Tehran, Yuliy Vorontsov also met with the leaders of the Afghan eight-party coalition based in Iran. These talks were carried out at a time when a delegation from the eight-party coalition is conducting talks with the leaders of the seven-party coalition on the future of the mujahidin interim government in Islamabad. [passage omitted]

According to political observers, in view of the fact that the appointment of Yuliy Vorontsov, first deputy foreign minister, to the post of Soviet ambassador to Kabul, has led to new resolutions in the Moscow-Kabul relations, it seems that the issue of the transfer of power is not so intangible. This assessment will increase in importance when the Kremlin officials also, according to these observers, become convinced that the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, under Najibullah's leadership, is unpopular and unstable, and distant from the Muslim people of that country. Therefore, the political-military situation in Afghanistan is heading for disaster. In this respect, political commentators consider the Soviet Union's reappraisal of the complex issue of Afghanistan as unavoidable and justify it within the framework of the conditions which have evolved regionally and internationally. In reality, it should be admitted that the new conditions prevailing in Afghanistan mean that an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan with a government which is in harmony with the just demands of the Muslim nation of this country, should enjoy support from its neighbors and international opinion.

Afghan Alliance Spokesman on Vorontsov Meeting

NC2305082189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The spokesman for the eight-party alliance of the Afghan mujahidin held a news conference in Tehran yesterday afternoon. He spoke about the recent developments with regard to the Afghanistan problem and the visit by Yuliy Vorontsov, first Soviet deputy foreign minister, to Tehran. The spokesman also refuted rumors of an imminenet visit by heads of the Afghan mujahidin to the Soviet Union.

('Ali Jan Zahedi), spokesman for hte eight-party alliance of the Afghan mujahidin, confirmed that during his meeting in Tehran, Vorontsov invited the heads of the alliance to visit the Soviet Union, and added: We rejected this invitation.

On the outcome of Vorontsov's meeting with the heads of the alliance, he expressed optimism on the talks, and said: During these talks, the Soviet representatives were more flexible during these talks and they did not insist much on the permanence of the Kabul regime and the need for its participation in Afghanistan's future government.

Asked about the fate of the agreement between the eight-party Afghan mujahidin alliance based in Iran and the seven-party Afghan mujahidin alliance based in Pakistan, he said: We are faithful to this agreement and a four-member delegation headed by Mr Khalili is in Pakistan at this time.

Czech Foreign Trade Minister Arrives for Talks

Invites Musavi to CSSR

LD2005175189 Tehran IRNA in English 1620 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—Visiting Czech Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba today re-extended an invitation to Premier Hoseyn Musavi on behalf of his Czech counterpart to pay an official visit to Prague.

He also called for expansion of commercial and industrial cooperation between the two countries and for implementation of joint projects.

Musavi accepted the invitation and hoped to visit Prague at a suitable opportunity. The premier said the prospect of Tehran-Prague cooperation was bright in view of the friendly ties between the two countries.

First Round of Talks Held

LD2005200689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] The first round of talks between Iranian and Czechoslovak economic delegations, headed by Industries Minister Shafe'i and Foreign Trade Minister Sterba, respectively, was held today. The talks examined bilateral economic and industrial exchanges.

In the talks, the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in connection with the construction of power stations, ceramic and cement industries, and rubber industries. Increasing Iranian non-oil exports to Czechoslovakia, such as the export of ambulances, televisions, and Renault cars, was also discussed. Agreement was reached on importing textile machinery from Czechoslovakia.

According to the report, Mr Sterba declared that his country is interested in cultural cooperation and the exchange of students with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Meets Cabinet Officials

LD2105211189 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—Visiting Czech Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba today held talks with Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi on Tehran-Prague industrial cooperation.

Sterba also discussed with Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) 'Ali Shamkhani, military cooperation including training courses and transfer of technology.

Shamkhani briefed Sterba on the peace talks with the Iraqi regime, and obstacles thrown by Baghdad regime in their way.

He said Baghdad must abide by U.N. Resolution 598 and called on regional Arab states which are to participate in the coming Arab summit in Morocco, to pressure Iraq to honour its commitment to the resolution.

Trade Protocol Signed

LD2105213989 Tehran IRNA in English 1900 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—Iran and Czechoslovakia inked their second economic protocol here today which foresees the volume of trade exchanged at 300 million dollars a year.

The protocol was signed by Industries Minister Gholamreza Shafe'i and visiting Czech Foreign Trade Minister Jan Sterba.

According to the protocol the two countries will cooperate in the fields of cement, rubber, power generation, machinery and the mining sector.

Czechoslovakia will help establish six petrochemical plants and two rubber factories with a capacity of 40,000 tones, besides the modernising of several sugar factories.

The two sides will also cooperate in two cement projects with a daily capacity of 2,000 tons. In addition, Iran will buy textile machinery from that country.

Shafe'i said 30 percent of the Iranian exports to Czechoslovakia will be non-oil including shoes, ambulances, color televisions, cars, minerals and various other goods. Iran has also agreed to export natural gas to Czechoslovakia via the Soviet Union.

The two countries will also cooperate in uranium industries, air research and designing of nuclear reactors, nuclear generators and other peaceful aspects of atomic energy.

Ambassador to Ankara To Make 'Final Return'

TA1805105789 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 18 May 89

[Text] It has been announced that Manuchehr Motaki, the Iranian ambassador to Ankara, will make a final return [as heard] to his country at the end of next week.

In response to a question by journalists on the subject, Ambassador Inal Batu, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said that the ambassador will return to his country following the visit to be paid by Mohammad Besharati, the Iranian first deputy minister of foreign affairs, to Turkey on 26 May.

During his visit, Besharati will deliver to Prime Minister Turgut Ozal a message from Iranian Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

Mines Minister on Cooperation With DPRK, PRC

LD1905201389 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 19 May 89

[Text] On the basis of the memorandum of understanding signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran and and DPRK, the volume of bilateral commercial exchange in the mines and metals sector will reach $50 million this year, and in the course of the implementation of the joint projects between the two countries this amount will be raised to $500 million.

Mr Ayatollahi, minister of mines and metals, who accompanied Mr Khamene'i to China, remarked on the results of that trip on his return to Tehran. He said: The joint session of the Technical and Industrial Committee of the two countries reviewed the entire industrial and mining cooperation which was agreed upon at the previous session, and arrived at suitable agreements necessary for the expansion of cooperation.

The minister of mines and metals added: In the metals and mining sector, as well as in ferrous metallurgy, several memoranda of understandings were signed. In the geological and mineral excavation sector, too, highly fruitful discussions were held with our Chinese counterparts.

Trade With DPRK To Double in Year

LD2105140189 Tehran IRNA in English 1235 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—The volume of trade between Tehran and Pyongyang will double within the 12 months to $ 500 million, the minister of construction jihad said Sunday [21 May].

"The Democratic People's Republic of Korea has agreed to import one million tons of oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran per year and deliver 15 machine tool plants and five 1,000-ton trawlers," Gholamreza Foruzesh said.

The agreements are included in two protocols signed by the two countries during President 'Ali Khamene'i to North Korea. Foruzesh was part of a delegation which visited both countries to prepare the text of agreements.

Foruzesh said the protocols with North Korea also envisaged cooperation in designing a bridge liking Bandar-e 'Abbas with Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf, construction of a 1000 megawatt power plant in siah Bisheh, northern Iran, and dredging the Arvand River.

Other agreements reached included the export of 200,000 tons of steel, 150,000 tons of plates and 50,000 tons of steel bars to Iran, and setting up of a shipyard in the Caspian port of Anzali and construction of a fishing port in Bandar-e 'Abbas.

KAYHAN on West's Silence Over Iraqi Atrocities

LD2005141489 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—An Iranian daily today criticized the West's "pummeling" of Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and "stoking" of Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL referred to the silence towards events inside Iraq and the ballyhoo created following Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements on May 5 suggesting Palestinians to broaden their struggle versus the Israelis. He noted that those who aid and abet the Israelis, particularly the Americans and French should directly pay a price.

There was a whirlwind of reaction and calls by leading Western institutions to break diplomatic ties with Iran.

"As is becoming increasingly apparent, Western financiers, defense contractors, industrial magnates and politicians began broadening their smiles and closing their eyes towards Baghdad", KAYHAN said.

The daily said May 5th provided "an elbow room for Saddam Husayn to flourish."

"This comes at the expense, first of the Iraqi people, in particular the Kurdish minority which is in the throes of the scourage of "Ethiopianisation", i.e. forced re-settlement. Secondly this stratagem works to the detriment of Iraq's neighbours: Iran, Syria, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

In the past two months, the media gave detailed reports of how assiduously Washington, Bonn and Paris had been supplying the military wherewithal to keep their Trojan horse in play.

"The other side of the coin was that events inside Iraq are simply not reflected to the outside world", it said.

"Not very surprising in light of the fact that Saddam's forced removal of hundreds of thousands of Kurds from their traditional homes was being met with similar silence... increased financial credits and other instruments from the West."

KEYHAN Critizes Saudi Arabia's Hajj Policy

LD2105164389 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—The Persian daily KEYHAN today questioned Riyadh's right of assigning quotas for Hajj pilgrims and said "The Saudi Arabian decision is malicious and indicates its hostility towards the Islamic Republic."

It said the many-months efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic for arranging the pilgrimage of about 150,000 aspiring Iranian pilgims to the holy Ka'bah this year have apparently met with the Saudis' subterfuge.

The Hajj pilgrimage is incumbent upon every adult Muslim once in a lifetime provided he or she has the means to afford the journey. Islam moreover decrees that no government has the right to fiddle with its divine laws and to bar the believers from observing them.

The daily noted that already ranking Iranian officials have provided satisfactory answers to all stumbling blocks thrown in the way of intending Iranian pilgrims under the pretext of having to cut down on the number of Iranian pilgrims to Mecca.

It said during the past few months and following a halt in Iran's publishing of devastating exposes, the Saudi regime responded not by exploiting common sense and prudence which might help to wipe out the bitter memories from the minds of the people of the tragic martyrdom of about 400 pilgrims by the Saudi police in Mecca on July 31, 1987. [sentence as received]

Ever since that cold-blooded massacre of pilgrims at the very gates of Islam's holiest site, where the shedding of even an animal's blood is prohibited, the Al Sa'ud family which seized the Hejaz in the 1930's has tried every trick to keep out Iranian Muslims from the Hajj.

Of late, the Muslim world has seen growing demands for wresting the "Haramayn Sharifyan" [reference to holy mosques in Mecca and Al-Madinah] from Saudi control and entrust its administration to an independent body of Muslim 'ulema.

"About what is the Saudi Government thinking?" questioned KEYHAN and commented whether it realizes that "its cobweb palace will not hold out against the smallest gush of the tempest of the wrath of believers."

The article said the Saudis think if they be left alone to do as they wish then they will prove their "stability and rightfulness," little knowing that in the event they should choose to continue in the same vein they will go "deeper and deeper in the abyss of their sins and offences, and will inflict on themselves a self-humiliating agony and torture."

It said time now goes against the Saudis marking the count-down for the death of the regime. Only a wise decision at the remaining time can avert the doomed fate of the Saudis, although they do not seem bold enough to make a decision of that sort in which case the Saudi Government will have brought itself against the Muslim world.

In addition, said the daily, it seems the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], too, is extremely upset at finding itself a scapegoat as a result of the Riyadh regime's anti-Islamic policies.

The Saudi rulers, noted the article, who could not directly prevent the Iranians' pilgrimage to holy Mecca arranged to exploit the OIC for the purpose by subterfuge and exploited it as a tool for their own goal.

The article reminded that in dealing with the Salman Rushdie affair the OIC had somewhat managed to make good on its disreputation and rid itself from the wrath of one billion Muslims by adopting a rather wise position. But, it said, it remains to be seen whether the OIC will be able to safeguard its reputation in dealing with other issues.

"Certainly," concluded the article, "it will not take us long before we make our advent into the Masjid al-Haram [the holy mosque in Mecca]."

Tehran TV Discusses Changes in Judiciary

NC2005095889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1543 GMT 19 May 89

[From the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Western body of laws has been and still is based on the opinion and views of the legal experts of each era. In our country's Constitution, however, an attempt has been made to base judicial laws on Islamic injunctions.

Article 57 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran states: The sovereign powers in the Islamic Republic are the legislature, executive, and the judiciary. These powers are exercised under the supervision of the rule of the jurisconsult, and the president is the link among all three. In Chapter 11 of the Constitution, the objectives and obligations of the judiciary are laid down in 19 articles. According to the Constitution, the Supreme Judicial Council is the highest judicial authority, and two members of this council, the prosecutor general and the president of the Supreme Court, are approved by the leadership in consultation with the judges of the Supreme Court. The minister of justice will be responsible for liaison among the executive, judiciary, and legislature, as well as for the implementation of laws. He will also be responsible for the administrative affairs of the Ministry of Justice.

The present focus of attention on the reappraisal of the Constitution and its revision, especially with regard to the articles pertaining to the judiciary, is the centralization of management. The committee for assessing the issue of centralization in the judiciary debated the article concerning the judiciary's management being in the form of a council. It was recommended that the management of judicial, executive, and administrative affairs of the judiciary should be delegated, for a period of 5 years, to a just and competent mojtahed [theologian] who is well-versed in judicial affairs and efficient in management.

Thus, the swift implementation of laws by our country's judicial machinery within the confines of the preservation of the independence of the judiciary is imperative. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Private Sector's Role in Rebuilding

NC2005085589 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 20 May 89

[Central News Unit research group commentary]

[Excerpts] When the first plan for the economic, social, and cultural expansion of the Islamic Republic of Iran was submitted to the Majlis for its approval, the policy for the country's reconstruction with all its priorities was also announced. It was decided that the government would incorporate the reconstruction policy within the first development plan so that there would be the necessary coordination between the country's reconstruction and economic development.

One of the fundamental considerations that the development program and the reconstruction policy have in common is the attempt to eliminate centralization or, in other words, to revamp the economic set-up and management of the country. Decentralization means that the government plays a smaller role in the economic sphere than it had in the past few years. Administrative officials are striving to create a new opening for the people and their capital in order to set in motion the wheels of the country's economy, especially in the production sector.

The main reason for using the term decentralization a decade after the Islamic revolution and for emphasizing greater participation by the private sector in the country's economic affairs is because the Constitution lacks a comprehensive provision outlining the powers and limits of the government sector, the private sector, and the cooperatives. The absence of a clear-cut economic system formulated or compiled along the lines of Islamic law created major bottlenecks in the country's executive system and will continue to do so. In fact, it can create difficulties for the development plan as well. [passage omitted]

The emphasis on social justice in the first development plan indicates that officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not wish to attain economic growth and increased production by paying a heavy price. They want growth coupled with expansion, social justice, and an equitable distribution of wealth. This requires attention, supervision, and intensive, and complete observation.

Decentralization of production and local organizations and decentralization in the expansion of the country's rural development, urban reconstruction, and domestic and foreign trade are of extreme importance. We will discuss this in later talks.

Nepal

Article Defends Right To Buy Chinese Arms

BK2105143989 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 10 May 89 pp 1, 7

[Text] Kathmandu, May 9 (RSS) [RASHTRIYA SAMACHAR SAMITI]: Intellectuals of different fields have firm conviction that as the arms procured by Nepal from China are purely defensive in nature, there is no need for any country to feel apprehension about it.

They say that it is the right of each country to improve the defense capabilities of its army according to the requirement.

Former foreign minister Ranadhir Subba and RP [Rashtriya Panchayat—parliament] member Padma Ratna Tuladhar said that by purchasing arms from China Nepal has violated neither the letter nor the spirit of the Nepal-India Peace and Friendship Treaty of 1950.

(It may be recalled that the 1950 treaty was signed by the last Rana Prime Minister Mohan Shumsher. So the allegation that the treaty was signed by His late Majesty King Tribhuvan is totally false.)

Former foreign minister, Mr Subba, said that India has been accusing Nepal of violating the spirit of the 1950 treaty, but Nepal has violated neither the letter nor the spirit of the treaty.

He said, the treaty mentions import of arms from India or through the territory of India, but it is silent on the matter of importing arms through China or Tibet.

In case of such goods imported from free ports, an additional arrangement was made in the letters of exchange between Nepal and India and it was provided that there should be cooperation and consent while importing arms through Indian territory, Mr Subba said.

He said an arms assistance agreement was concluded between Nepal and India in 1965, but Nepal has formally notified India that the agreement was cancelled.

Mr Subba said, the 1950 treaty is totally silent on import of arms from countries other than India or through territories other than Indian.

The treaty does not apply to import of arms from China or Tibet, he said.

RP member Padma Ratna Tuladhar said no one can object to the procurement of arms by Nepal from China as sovereign and independent Nepal can import arms for its security from anywhere.

These arms are defensive in nature and they were not imported to attack anyone. He said adding, we have adopted a policy of not allowing anyone to use our territory against anyone.

Therefore, we have to tell India that these arms are solely meant for Nepal's defense and that they will not be used against India. He said adding, India should as a friend understand this fact.

Mr Tuladhar said, we remember the incidents when our small country had to face dangers following some accidents, and there is no guarantee that there will be no accidents in the future. Therefore, it is necessary for every nation to keep defensive arms for self-respect and self-defense.

A country like Nepal with its sensitive location between China and India can adopt an aggressive attitude towards none, he said. He informed that the issue about Chinese arms was raised during his recent visit to New Delhi and he had tried to convince the Indian leaders and people of the nature of the arms and the objectives for their procurement.

He made it clear that the arms will not be used unless and until our territory is attacked or our air space violated.

According to Mr Tuladhar import of arms from China does not violate the 1950 treaty because according to the treaty India needs to be consulted only when arms are imported through Indian territories. As the Chinese arms have come through routes other than Indian territory, the treaty has nothing to do with these arms.

Therefore, there is no need to consult India for importing Chinese arms, neither does India have the right to question about this. Otherwise, India also needs to consult Nepal when it imports arms from various countries. "But it has not come to my knowledge if India has ever consulted Nepal while importing modern arms for herself", he added.

Nepal had asked India for the supply of arms, but as India did not respond to the request, Nepal had to import arms from China.

Nepal had been importing arms from India in the past.

To equip the Royal Nepalese Army with minimum modern arms is a national duty of Nepal which has been traditionally keeping a permanent army.

It is no longer possible in these modern days to keep an army solely on the strength of bow and arrows, slings or muzzle-loaders.

It is an internal matter of an independent country to procure its defense materials from places of its choice.

Soviet Union To Supply Petroleum Products

BK2205125189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1220 GMT 22 May 89

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, May 22 (AFP)—The Soviet Union will supply Nepal with most of its petroleum needs on a long-term basis in the face of a two-month-old oil blockade by India, a high-ranking official has said.

Negotiations have reached their final stage, and a formal agreement is expected to be signed between the Nepalese and Soviet state-run oil corporations, the source said.

Under the agreement, the Soviet Union will deliver the oil products through the Amlekhganj border township, 260 kilometers southeast of Kathmandu opposite Raxaul, a northern Indian railhead, the source added.

He said that for the time being the agreement involved the supply of 60,000 metric tons each of diesel and kerosene and 40,000 tons of petroleum and liquid petroleum gas to the landlocked country.

Nepal will continue to import petroleum products from China via Lhasa and from the open market including Middle Eastern and Singapore-based oil companies, he said.

The Soviet Union has for the past decade been supplying Nepal with 80,000 tons of kerosene and diesel each year on a deferred-payment basis.

Nepal imported about 206,000 tons of oil products in 1988 and had planned to import 220,000 tons this year, a figure that is expected to grow to 240,000 tons for 1990.

Moscow had offered in the late 1970's to conclude a long-term agreement for the supply of petroleum products to Nepal, but Kathmandu opted to use Soviet supplies for most of its needs but import other oil from the Middle East at spot prices, the source noted.

India was Nepal's sole oil supplier until the early 1970's, when it said it could not continue to supply the products on a rupee payment basis.

But New Delhi agreed to supply the balance of Nepal's requirements of oil, diesel, petroleum and kerosene over that imported from the Soviet Union and the Middle East.

Nepal, which has no oil refineries, found it convenient to deal with the Indian Oil Corp., even though it had to pay handling and transport costs in foreign currencies amounting to an average of 160 million rupees (6.2 million U.S. dollars) per year.

The Indian Oil Corp supplied Nepal through eight refilling stations along the two countries' 1,040-kilometer border until March 23, when their trade and transit treaties of 1978 expired and India suspended all exports to Nepal except limited quantities of medicines, baby foods and iodized rock salt.

The blockade of oil products has hurt Nepal's economy, causing strict rationing of diesel and kerosene which has sharply curtailed industrial production and hampered delivery of goods to markets.

Development projects have also been stymied, while campuses have been forced to close and the government has had to fell an average of 260 hectares of forest daily to meet fuel requirements.

The oil crisis is expected to cause a loss of over one billion rupees (40 million dollars) in public funds and two billion rupees (80 million dollars) in goods and services in the final quarter of the fiscal year ending July 15.

The ability to receive fuel supplies through Amlekhganj is expected to be a great relief to Nepal, which had been forced to receive all its oil supplies via Calcutta, a routing fraught with technical and bureaucratic problems.

The trade row between Nepal and India is expected to continue for several months in view of Nepal's insistence on reaching separate treaties for trade and transit, while India is insisting that a single treaty cover both areas.

Nepal has asked India to fix a date, venue and level for official talks to draw up new treaties after submitting draft treaties.

India has said that Nepal has not officially specified its demands, and both countries have plunged into a protracted media war, observers here say.

Pakistan

Afghanistan Threats 'Strongly Protested'

BK2305031289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] Pakistan has strongly protested over the Kabul regime's threats, that were made by Dr Najibullah on Saturday [20 May], about the attack on the alleged mujahidin training camps in Pakistani territory. The president of the Kabul regime had also tried to incite the people of Pakistan against the policies of the Government of Pakistan. The Kabul regime's charge d'affaires in Islamabad was told that the threats of aggression against Pakistan and the attempt to incite the people

against the government is a flagrant violation of the Geneva accords. The charge d'affaires was informed that there is no mujahidin training camp in Pakistani territory and that only Afghan refugees are in Pakistan. He was further told that any attempt of aggression against Pakistan will be fully met with.

The UN mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan was asked to take notice of Kabul's flagrant violation of the Geneva accords. These threats have also been brought to the notice of the UN secretary general. The attention of the Governments of the United States and the Soviet Union has also been drawn to these violations, as they are the guarantors of the Geneva accords.

Yaqub Khan on Foreign Policy, Afghanistan
BK2205160889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] A 2-day discussion on foreign policy began in the Senate this afternoon. The motion for the discussion was moved by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. Initiating the debate, the foreign minister said that the basic objective of foreign policy is to promote economic and trade relations and to safeguard national interests all over the world. The present government is determined to further promote this objective. The country's security and stability are given utmost importance so as to realize the objective of progress and prosperity, he added.

On Afghanistan, the foreign minister reiterated Pakistan's policy, which calls for a peaceful solution to the problem that is acceptable to the Afghan people. He denied that Pakistan is encouraging a military solution to the problem.

The foreign minister said the Geneva accords has provided a legal framework for the withdrawal of Soviet troops and paved the way for a comprehensive settlement through a political process acceptable to the Afghan people. Under the Geneva accords, it is necessary to change the present Kabul administration because all of the parties involved in the accord agreed to authorize the UN secretary general's representative to work for the establishment of a broad-based government to replace the present regime.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan referred to the propaganda campaign launched by the Soviet Union and the Kabul regime to shift blame for the war in Afghanistan onto the Afghan mujahidin, and to their continued allegations of Pakistani interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, even accusations that Pakistan's armed forces were actively participating in the Afghan war. None of these accusations have been substantiated by the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, he added.

In this context, the foreign minister noted the repeated violations of Pakistani territory from the Kabul regime side and the Scud missile attacks on Pakistani territory, which are intended to pressure Islamabad into abandoning its support for a just settlement of the Afghan problem.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan assured the Senate that a fitting reply will be given to any action or aggression against Pakistan.

In his detailed speech, the foreign minister also shed light on Pakistan's relations with the Soviet Union, the United States, China, Turkey, Iran, and India, and reaffirmed Pakistan's stand on Kashmir, Palestine, Cambodia, and Namibia.

After the foreign minister's speech, the Senate began a debate on foreign policy. Three members, who took part in today's debate, were Mohammad Ali Khan, Tariq Chaudhary, and Shah Mohammad Khan.

Army Chief on 'Unidentified Missile' Fall
BK2305032489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 89

[Text] The Army chief, General Mirza Aslam Beg, has said that an unidentified missile fell in (?Sukkur) yesterday. Speaking informally to newsmen in Islamabad last night, he said experts are making an investigation on the wreckage of the missile to find out the make and the origin of the missile. There is no report of any loss of life or property caused by the missile.

Islamabad Reports India's 'Agni' Missile Launch
BK2205085389 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] India has successfully test fired today its first intermediate-range ballistic missile—Agni—which had been bogged down by technical snags for a month. The missile, launched from the Chandipur area of eastern Orissa State, has a range of up to 2,500 km and has been targeted to land in the Bay of Bengal.

Defense experts have said "Agni" can also be equipped with nuclear warhead or used to launch satellites.

The launch put India in an exclusive club of countries—which so far includes the United States, China, Soviet Union, Britain, France, and Israel—with their own ballistic missile capability.

Meanwhile, the United States has expressed concern over India's development of the missile.

Yaqub Khan Sees Easing of Relations With India

BK2005093289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has said Indo-Pakistan relations are set to ease with the meeting between the prime minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto, and her Indian counterpart, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in December last, setting a favorable tone for future relations. In an interview with AFP in Harare, he said the two heads of government have established a positive rapport which has been manifested in the signing of three bilateral agreements. These included an agreement by both countries not to attack each other's nuclear facilities, a cultural agreement promoting an exchange of visits and contacts, and an agreement for meeting of various sectors of each government to iron out differences.

The foreign minister also told the news agency that various meetings have been scheduled this year, including the meetings between the defense secretaries, foreign affairs secretaries, and a joint ministerial meeting.

Indian Group Arrives for Secretary-Level Talks

BK2105073489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 May 89

[Text] Secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan begin in Islamabad today. During the 3-day talks the two sides will discuss among other topics terrorism, trans-border crimes, drug trafficking, and border ground rules. This will be the third official level meeting between the home secretaries of the two countries. An 11-member Indian delegation headed by the home secretary, Mr Kalyanakrishnan, arrived in Islamabad yesterday to attend the meeting.

Speaking to newsmen at the airport, Mr Kalyanakrishnan hoped that a very useful dialogue would be held with Pakistani officials. He said there is much scope for promoting cooperation in dealing with illegal border movement, smuggling, and drug trafficking and other problems.

Paper Demands Immediate Cease-Fire in Siachen

BK2005071089 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 12 May 89 p 3

[Editorial: "Siachen Glacier and India's Tendency"]

[Text] According to some reports of international news agencies, India has sent more military contingents to Siachen Glacier in order to strengthen its position there. The reports state that Lieutenant General Nanda, chief of India's Northern Command, has alleged that Pakistani troops have set up two new posts in Siachen Glacier and are shelling from these posts. However, irrespective of the aforesaid allegations from the Indian general, the fact is that India itself has made a vain attempt to set up a new post in Siachen a few days ago.

On the Siachen Glacier issue, India's tendency is contradictory. On the one hand it expresses its determination to solve this issue through talks, and on the other hand, given an opportunity, it dreams of occupying more areas in Siachen through its military power. In the past, several days there have been reports of clashes in this area. There are also reports of more troops being sent by India. All these events are taking place at a time when the next round of Pakistan-India talks on the Siachen dispute is about to begin. The fifth round of defense secretary-level talks between the two countries begins in Islamabad on the 27th of this month; home secretary-level talks have also been agreed upon. India's act of sending more troops to the Siachen Glacier before the fifth round of talks between the two countries suggests something. If India is serious about resolving this dispute through talks, it should immediately revise its decision to send more troops. Until the creation of a cordial atmosphere, which is essential for resolving any dispute, the success of the talks cannot be expected. Foiling the efforts for a cease-fire in Siachen, India has prudently adopted the path of confrontation. [sentence as published] At first it tried to set up new posts, and attacked the Pakistani contingents. When it failed in achieving its goal due to the reprisal acts, it decided to send more troops there. According to some reports, the Indian contingents have arrived in Siachen also. In this state of conflict, we do not think that any success of the Pakistan-India talks on the Siachen dispute can be expected. It is essential that instead of trying to find a solution to this dispute through its military might, India should come to the negotiating table and help Pakistan find a solution to the issue with understanding. There should be an immediate cease-fire in this region in order to create a cordial atmosphere for the 27 May talks.

700 Rendered Unconcious by Ammonia Gas Leak

BK2205162689 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 May 89

[Text] At least 700 persons, including a large number of schoolchildren, became unconscious when ammonia gas discharged from a gas cylinder of an ice factory in Phuleli area of Hyderabad this evening. The condition of most of the affected people has been reported out of danger and no case of any casualty has so far been reported. The victims have been admitted in various hospitals in Hyderabad.

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